16
SUZUKA
KOUJI SEO

KOJI SEO

瀬尾公治

16

涼風 SUZUKA

CONTENTS

#137: THREE'S A CROWD 3

#138: ANXIETY 21

#139: THE TEACHER 39

#140: THE TRYOUTS 57

#141: THE FAILED STUDENT.....75

#142: CELEBRATION 93

#143: THE FATHER 111

#144: THE FIRST MOVE 129

#145: THE RIFT 147

#146: PREFACE.....165

TICK カチッ
WHOOSH
SHINE カラ
SHINE カラ
MINSTREL
...
I HARDLY GOT ANY SLEEP ...
WELL... NOT THAT I WOULD ...
'CAUSE ...

涼風 SUZUKA

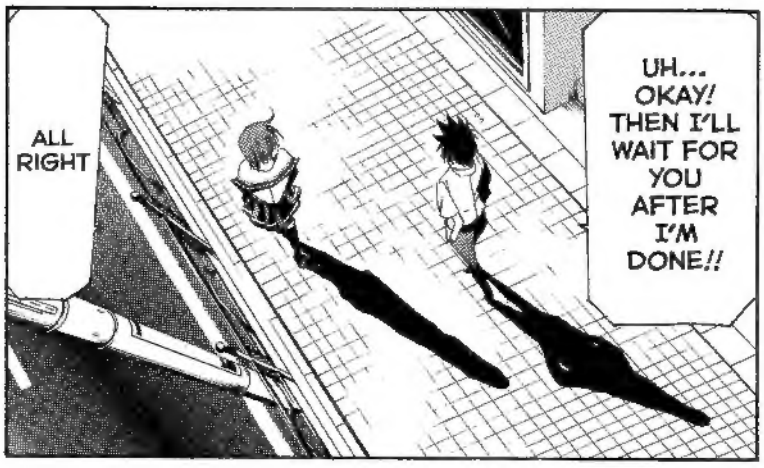
#137 THREE'S A CROWD

UNIVERSITY TRYOUTS ARE COMING UP SOON, SO I BETTER WORK HARD DURING MORNING PRACTICE...
TMP
TMP
ONLY FIVE DAYS OF SUMMER BREAK LEFT
SLIP
I'M SO GLAD I CHOSE SEIJO UNIVERSITY!
MAN, I FEEL A LOT MORE MOTIVAT-ED, TOO!
カチャ
KER-CHAK

...?
CLATTER
WHOA !!
UH ...
ER ...
MORN-ING ...
UH... G...GOOD MORN-ING...!!
RATTLE
RATTLE
YOUR HAIR'S ... A MESS.
...
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
OH ...
RUB

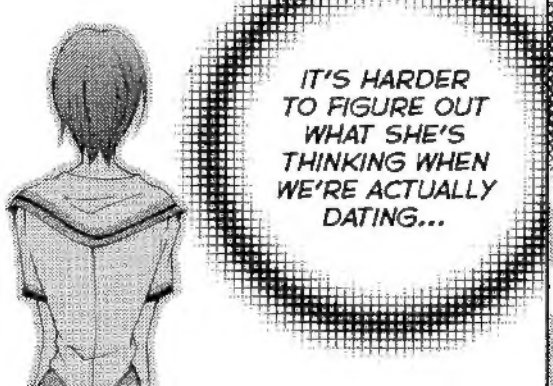
DID YOU ...
SLEEP WELL ...?
YUP ...
OH... OKAY...
...
CLENCH
WHAT THE HECK...? SHE'S BEING STRANGE-LY COLD ...
I DON'T THINK I DREAMED WHAT HAP-PENED ...
HEY!! ARE YOU FREE AFTER PRAC-TICE?!
HUH ...?
I WAS WONDERING IF...YOU WANTED TO HAVE LUNCH...
ASAHI-YU BATHS
...

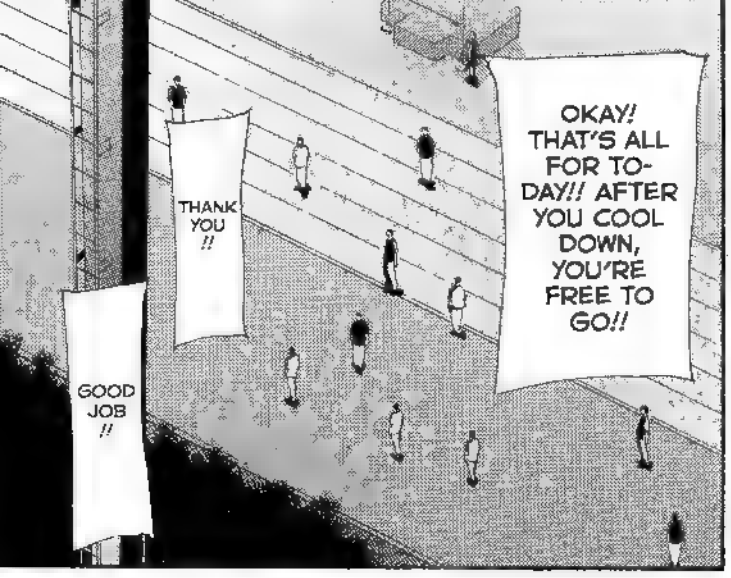
SURE ...
I'D BE COOL WITH THAT.

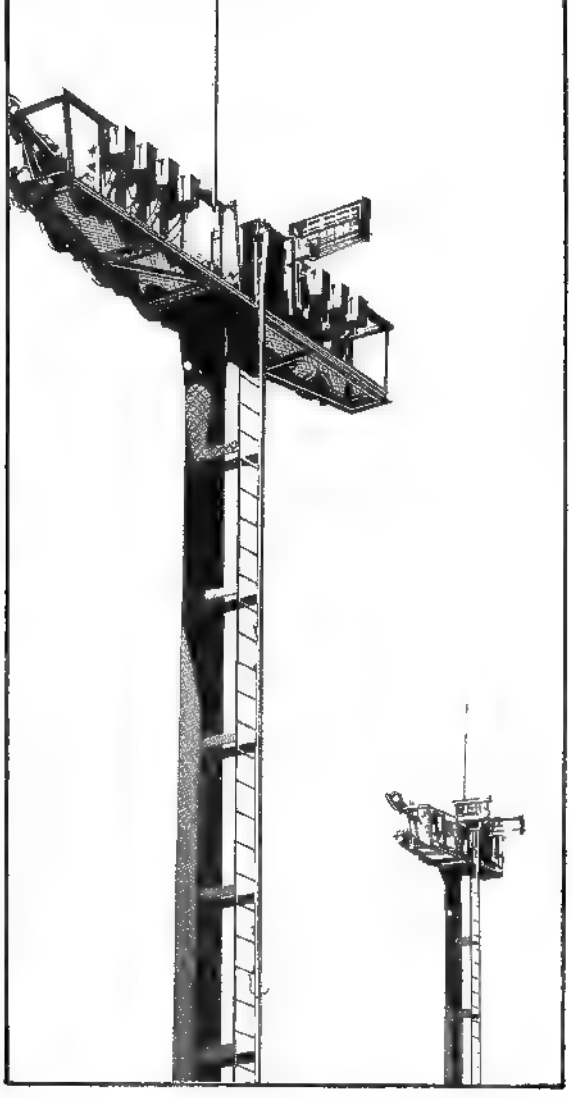

ALL RIGHT
UH... OKAY! THEN I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AFTER I'M DONE!!

WHEW!
SHE FINALLY SMILED...

ASAHI-NA...
...


IT'S HARDER TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SHE'S THINKING WHEN WE'RE ACTUALLY DATING...

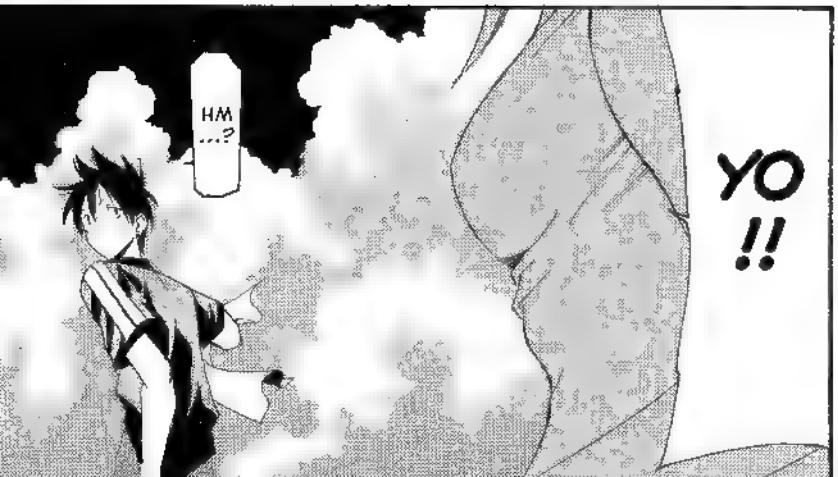

OKAY! THAT'S ALL FOR TO-DAY!! AFTER YOU COOL DOWN, YOU'RE FREE TO GO!!
THANK YOU !!
GOOD JOB !!



WHEW! WE'RE DONE!
UHH, WHERE'S ASA-HINA?

TMP
ASA-HINA!!

THERE SHE IS ...!

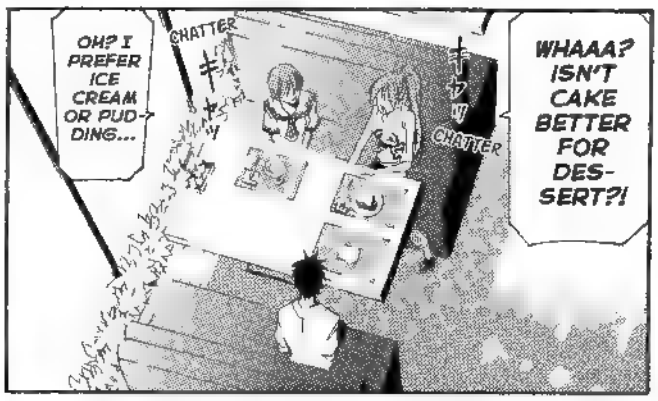

HM ...?
YO !!

I'M HERE TO HANG OUT!!
IS SUZUKA HERE?!
MIKI !!
OH ...
EEK! HOW'VE YOU BEEN, GIRL?! IT'S BEEN SOOO LONG!!
ACK !!
THWAP
YEAH! I KNOW!
I CALLED YOU A FEW TIMES AFTER I GOT BACK, BUT I COULDN'T REACH YOU. I WAS GETTING WORRIED!
SORRY! I FORGOT MY CELL PHONE WHEN I WENT TO MY GRAND-MA'S!

HUH...? COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU TWO...
HM ...?
I GUESS THINGS ARE ALL RIGHT NOW...
THEY SEEM PRETTY COOL WITH EACH OTHER DESPITE THE BREAK-UP...
WELL... THEY SEEM FRIENDLY... SO WHAT-EVER!
ANYWAY, SINCE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, LET'S ALL GO OUT TO EAT!
HUH ...?
CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE, HASHI-BA? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUH?! OH, NOTH-ING ...
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN JUST ASK A QUES-TION LIKE THAT!!

RESTAURANT

ANNOYED
SSSIP
BUT, Y'KNOW ?!
ANNOYED
ANNOYED


OH? I PREFER ICE CREAM OR PUDDING...
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAAA? ISN'T CAKE BETTER FOR DESSERT?!

AH WELL... I GUESS IT WOULD'VE BEEN WEIRD TO TURN HER DOWN...
AND ASAHINA WAS OKAY WITH IT, TOO!!
...!

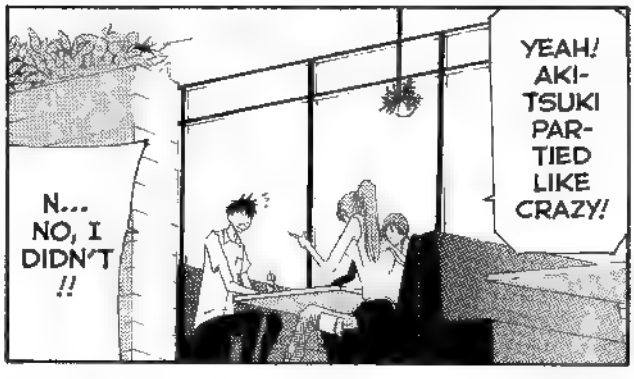
PUDDING, CAKE?! WHO CARES? IT'S ALL THE SAME...
BUT THEY SURE TALK A LOT ...

SHE SURE PICKED A GOOD TIME!!
...!!
SHE HAD TO COME TODAY, OF ALL DAYS!!

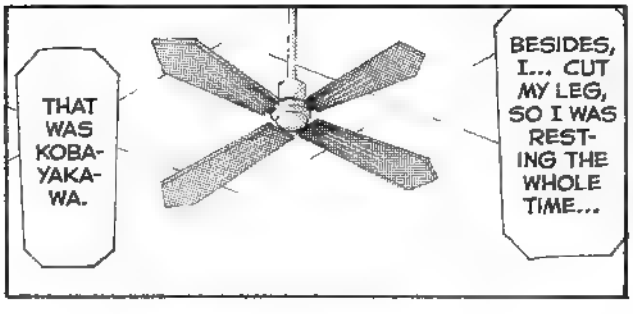
UH... YEAH... WITH EVERY-ONE!!
WHAT ...? YOU WENT TO THE BEACH ?
HUH ?
OH... I ALMOST FORGOT, AKITSUKI! I HAVE THE PHOTOS WE TOOK WHEN WE WENT TO THE BEACH EARLIER, SO I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU NEXT TIME
!!
OH, AND SAKU-RAI-SAN!
YASUNOBU, MIHO-CHAN, TSUYOSHI WHO'S OUR KOHAI ...
LET'S SEE... ALSO KOBAYA... KAWA...
SAKU-RAI-SAN GOT TIME OFF FROM HER MODEL-ING!
HUH?! UH... REALLY?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AKIT-SUKI?

AHHH!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INVITED HER!

...

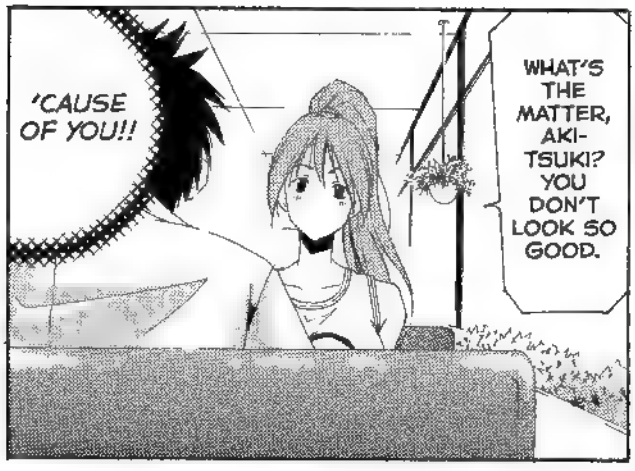

N... NO, I DIDN'T !!
YEAH! AKI-TSUKI PAR-TIED LIKE CRAZY!

OH... DID YOU GUYS HAVE FUN?
EVERY-ONE ENDED UP GOING SINCE IT'S OUR LAST SUMMER BREAK.

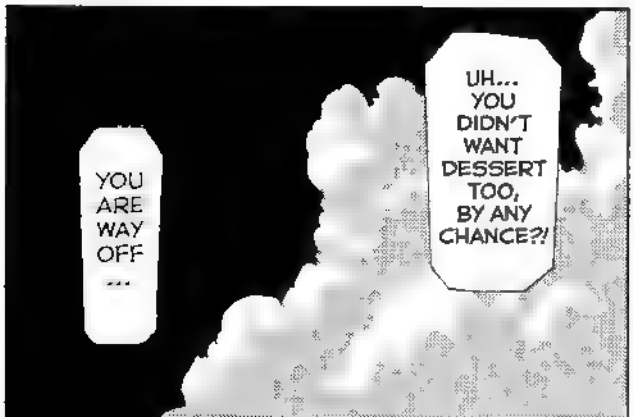

THAT WAS KOBA-YAKA-WA.
BESIDES, I... CUT MY LEG, SO I WAS REST-ING THE WHOLE TIME...

YEAH ...
SUZUKA, IF YOU CAME BACK EARLIER, YOU COULD'VE GONE WITH US, TOO.

WHAT THE HECK IS SHE SAYING...?!
MAN... THIS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE...


'CAUSE OF YOU!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AKITSUKI? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

I FINALLY GET MY CHANCE WITH ASAHINA AGAIN...
IS SHE GONNA DESTROY IT ALL IN HALF A DAY?!


YOU ARE WAY OFF ...
UH... YOU DIDN'T WANT DESSERT TOO, BY ANY CHANCE?!

OH NO...
SHE SEEMS ANGRY...

...
ちら
GLANCE

BUT I INVITED MY EX-GIRL FRIEND TO THE BEACH..
NOTHING EVEN HAP-PENED ...

WHAT ...?
THE BEACH, HUH?
I...
WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE GONE, TOO...
W... WELL... I WENT TO THE BEACH WITH-OUT YOU ... BE-SIDES... I...
HUH...? WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING, YAMATO-KUN?
...
SOR-RY ...
STILL ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME...

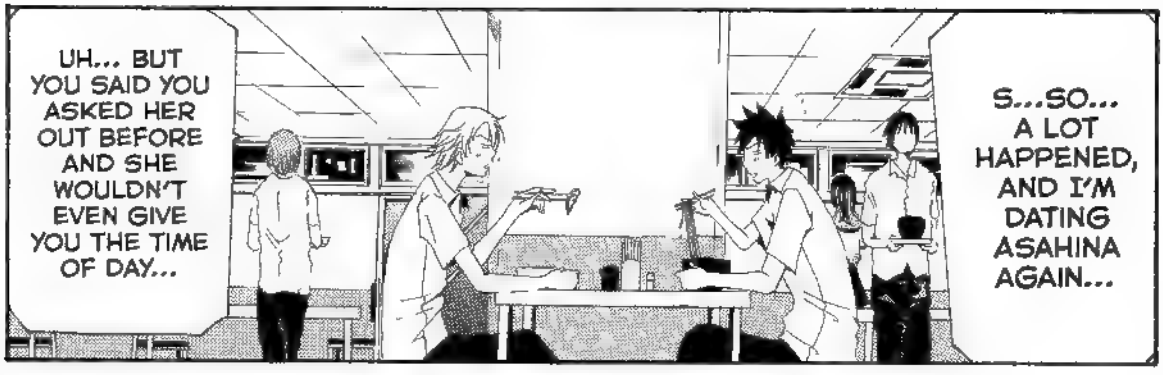
WELL, NEXT YEAR, LET'S GO TOGETHER ...
JUST THE TWO OF US, THIS TIME.
HUH ...?
ASAHINA...

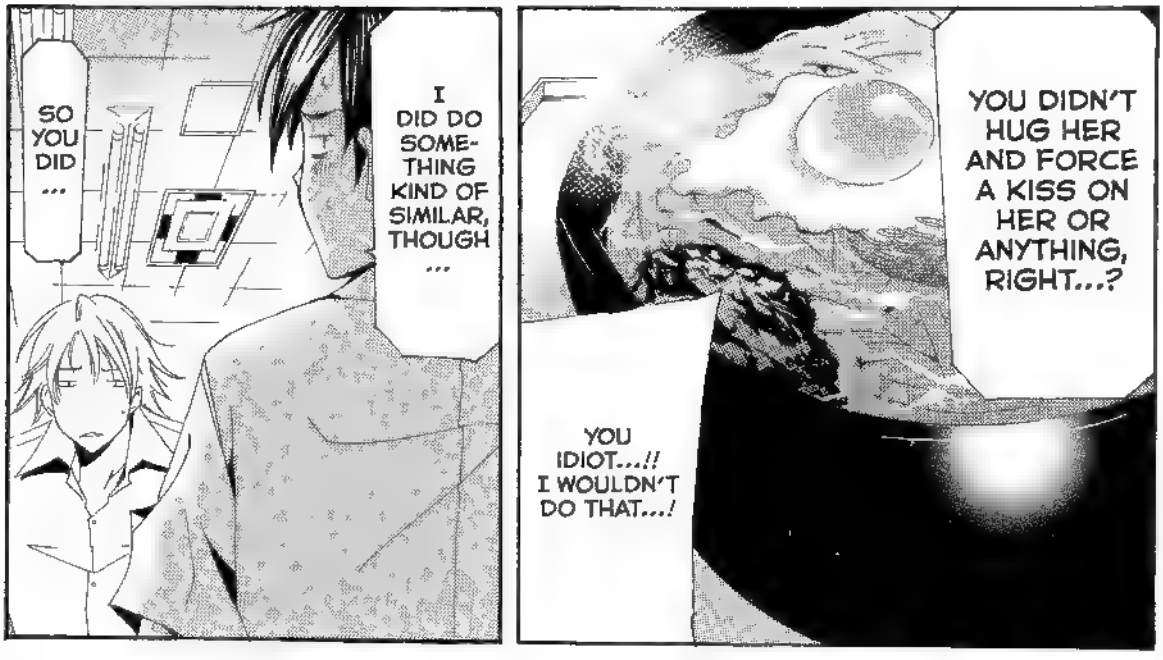
HOW PATHETIC.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT ...
ASAHINA IS ALREADY THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE...
AND HERE I AM, FRETTING OVER SOMETHING SO STUPID...
I HOPE IT WILL BE THAT WAY NEXT YEAR, AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT, AND THE ONE AFTER THAT, TOO...
HM ...?
UH... HEY, ASAHI-NA ...
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT I'M WITH ASAHINA NOW...
UH... SURE ...
OKAY ...?
IT'S A PROM-ISE!

UM
...
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS...

#138 ANXIETY
SUZUKA
涼風

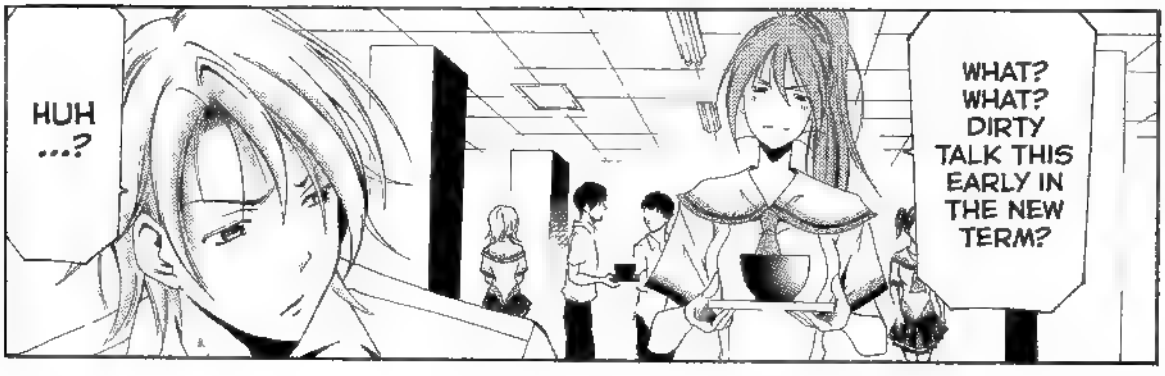
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
HUH ...?


UH... BUT YOU SAID YOU ASKED HER OUT BEFORE AND SHE WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE YOU THE TIME OF DAY...
S...SO... A LOT HAPPENED, AND I'M DATING ASAHINA AGAIN...


SO YOU DID ...
I DID DO SOME-THING KIND OF SIMILAR, THOUGH ...
YOU DIDN'T HUG HER AND FORCE A KISS ON HER OR ANYTHING, RIGHT...?
YOU IDIOT...!! I WOULDN'T DO THAT...!

IN THE END, IT WAS JUST A BIG LOVER'S SPAT, THEN?
SO STUPID
BUT, I MEAN ...

HUH...? UH... YEAH, I KNOW...
YOU KNOW... IF YOU TELL, YOU'RE 100% GONNA GET CAUGHT!


HUH ...?
WHAT? WHAT? DIRTY TALK THIS EARLY IN THE NEW TERM?

YUP, REALLY! TOO BAD FOR YOU!
R... RE- ALLY ?!

HUH ?!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW YAMATO AND SUZUKA GOT BACK TOGETH- ER.
TELL THE WORLD, WHY DON'T YOU?!

HUH?! HEY!! WHO ARE YOU CALLING A PER- VERT?!
...
WH... WHY IS THAT TOO BAD FOR ME, YOU PER- VERT!!

UH ...
SO DID I REALLY SCREW UP THE OTHER DAY?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I TOLD SUZUKA THAT WE WENT TO THE BEACH...
...AND THAT YOU INVITED SAKURAI-SAN...
SLAP
N...NO!! I DIDN'T KNOW...
YOU'RE TERRIBLE! ARE YOU TRYING TO DESTROY THEIR RELATION-SHIP?
IT'S FINE. SHE SAID IT DOESN'T BOTHER HER.
R... REALLY? BUT STILL ...
IF SHE SAYS IT DOESN'T BOTHER HER, THEN WHAT'S THE HARM?
POUT
NEITHER SIDE'S GONNA DISCUSS THAT STUFF.

SUZUKA-CHAN COULD'VE BEEN WITH A GUY, TOO.
CLINK
CLINK
I MEAN, THEY WERE BROKEN UP FOR A YEAR.

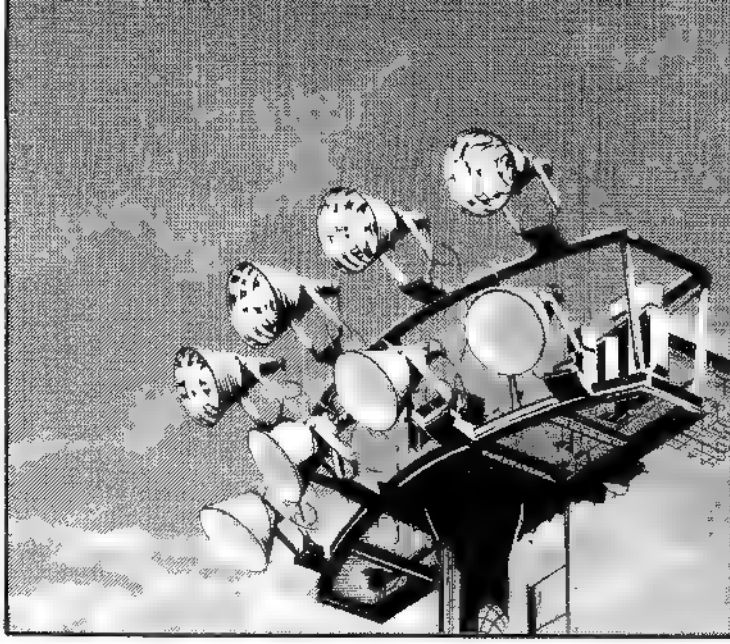
HUH ...?

UH... YEAH ...
WELL... THERE'S NO POINT IN DWELL-ING ON THE PAST! NOW IS WHAT'S IMPORT-ANT! NOW!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YOU TACT-LESS JERK?!
RUB
わしゃわしゃ
RUB
S... STOP, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE MESS-ING UP THE HAIR!!

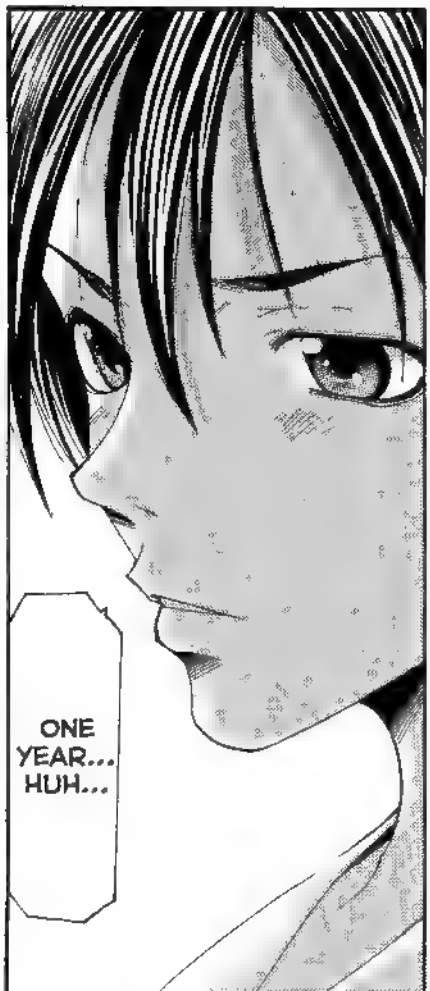
SLAP
AH-HHH !!
WHA ...?! YOU PERV!!
HEY, DON'T TOUCH ME WITH YOUR BREASTS, HASHIBA!

TAKE CARE, AKITSUKI-SEMPAI!
OKAY, GOOD NIGHT!

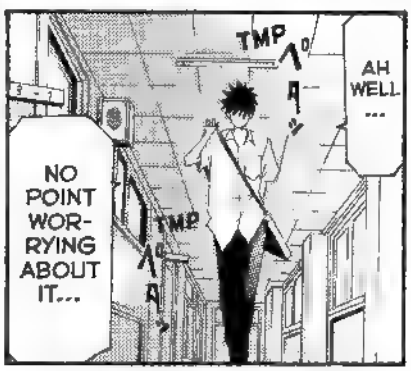


SLAM

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ASAHINA DID IN THE STATES.
IT'S TRUE, THOUGH ...


ONE YEAR... HUH...

HUH ...?


NO POINT WORRYING ABOUT IT...
TMP
TMP
AH WELL ...

UH... ARIMA ...?
SUZUKA-CHAN ...
WHAT ...
ARE YOU DOING HERE?
COULD'VE BEEN WITH A GUY, TOO.
NEITHER SIDE'S GONNA DISCUSS THAT STUFF.

DAMN...
HOW LONG ARE THEY GONNA TALK FOR...?
I'M TELL-ING YOU ...
YEAH, RIGHT!
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE FIGHTING ...
...BUT WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT...?
COULD THAT BE WHY...
DID SOMETHING GO ON BETWEEN THOSE TWO IN THE STATES?
ASAHINA TRIED TO GO OUT WITH ME...?

OH... YAMATO-KUN.
HEY ...
HEAD-ING HOME ?
...!!

APPEAR
HEY ...!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY HERE?

UH ...

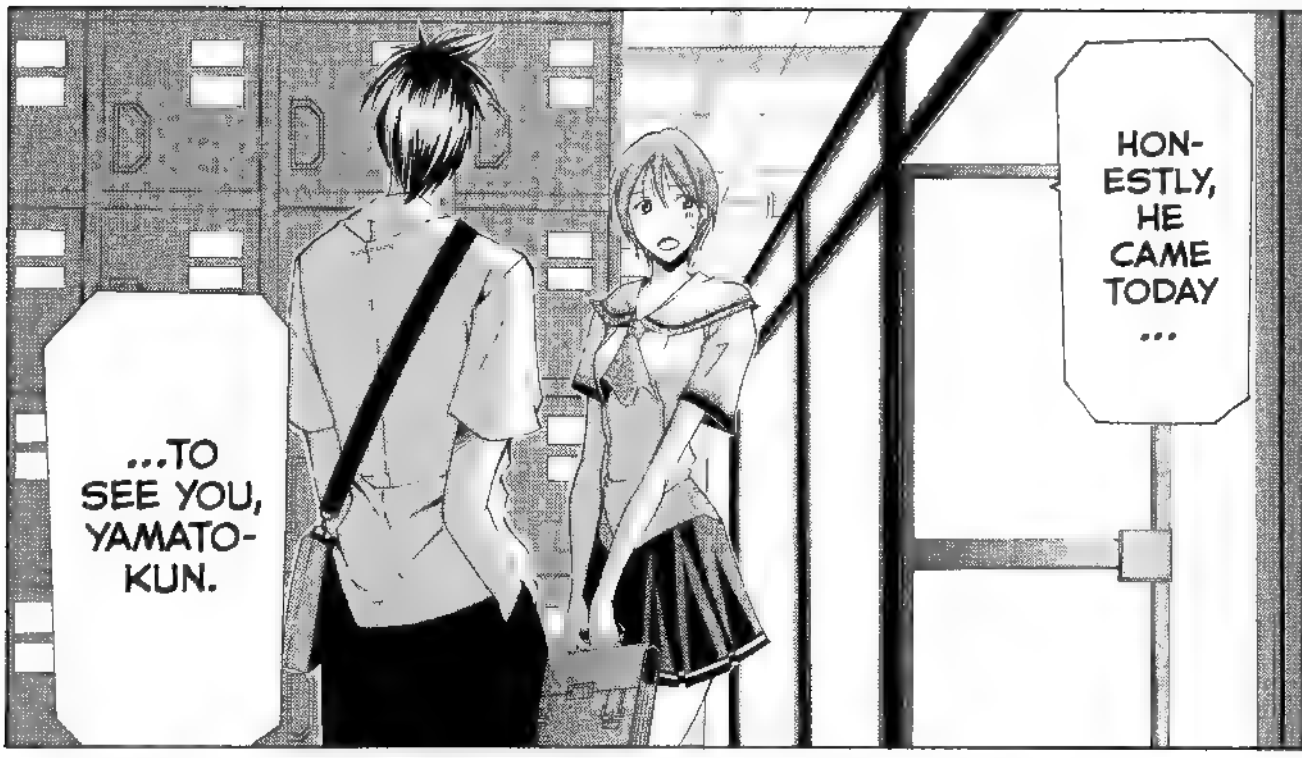
HMPH ...

EVEN THOUGH NO UNIVERSITY HAS BETTER FACILITIES THAN OURS...
WHOOSH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
HUH?
I HEARD...
THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SEIJO U.
STILL, EVEN IF YOU WERE TO COME TO OUR SCHOOL...
YOU WOULDN'T BE A REGULAR ON THE 100M TRACK WITH ME AROUND.
HUH...?
DON'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT!
HEY!
UH...

DO YOU THINK I SPENT THE YEAR MESSING AROUND?
WHAT-EVER UNIVER-SITY I GO TO ...
I'M NEVER GONNA LOSE TO YOU!!
...

WELL, THEN, FOCUS ON YOUR TRAIN-ING...
WHO KNOWS? YOU MIGHT GET SECOND PLACE AT UNIVER-SITY.
TURN
I SEE ...
UH... ER...
...
SORRY ... ARIMA CAME TO SEE YOU, BUT I DROVE HIM AWAY...
HUH ...?
YOU TWO BECAME CLOSE IN THE STATES ...
... DIDN'T YOU?

CLOSE TO HIM?! OF COURSE NOT!!
H... HUH?!


HON-ESTLY, HE CAME TODAY ...
...TO SEE YOU, YAMATO-KUN.

KER-CHAK
APPAR-ENTLY HIS UNIVERSITY SEMPAI TOLD HIM TO CONVINCE YOU TO GO TO TOHTO U...
SINCE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE THAT YOU CAN GET IN.
HUH ...?
ME ...?

S... SO...
IT SEEMS HE JUST CAME 'CAUSE HE WAS TOLD TO.
ARIMA PROB-ABLY DOESN'T CARE.
SHUT
YEAH ...
WHA...? BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
W...WELL, WE DID TALK ABOUT THAT A LITTLE... BUT IT WAS HONESTLY NOT MUCH!
YOU DIDN'T TALK ABOUT YOUR TIME IN THE STATES?
THAT'S PROB-ABLY WHY HE CAME TODAY!
HE WOULDN'T STOP ASKING ME ABOUT THAT STUFF!
TO BE HONEST, HE REALLY SEES YOU AS HIS RIVAL, Y'KNOW!
BESIDES, HE JUST ASKED ABOUT STUFF LIKE, "WHAT DID AKITSUKI PLACE IN THE I.H.?" AND "WHAT'S HIS TIME?"

I SEE...
WHEW!
WH... WHAT ...?

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM, SAYING YOU'LL BE SECOND IN UNIVERSITY?
PISSES ME OFF!

BUT HE SURE IS AS DESPICABLE AS EVER!
HUH ...?

STILL ...
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? I DIDN'T SPEND THE YEAR JUST MESSING AROUND...

AND I'M GONNA BEAT HIM...
...IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
BADUMP

HUH ...?
I...IN THAT CASE, TRAIN HARD FOR THE TIME BEING, AND MAKE SURE YOU PASS THE TRYOUTS!
THERE'S NO POINT IN TALKING A BIG GAME IF YOU DON'T GET IN.
I... I KNOW THAT!
ANYWAY, YOU'RE ALL TALK, SO WHAT IF YOU ACTUALLY DO FAIL?!
HEY !!

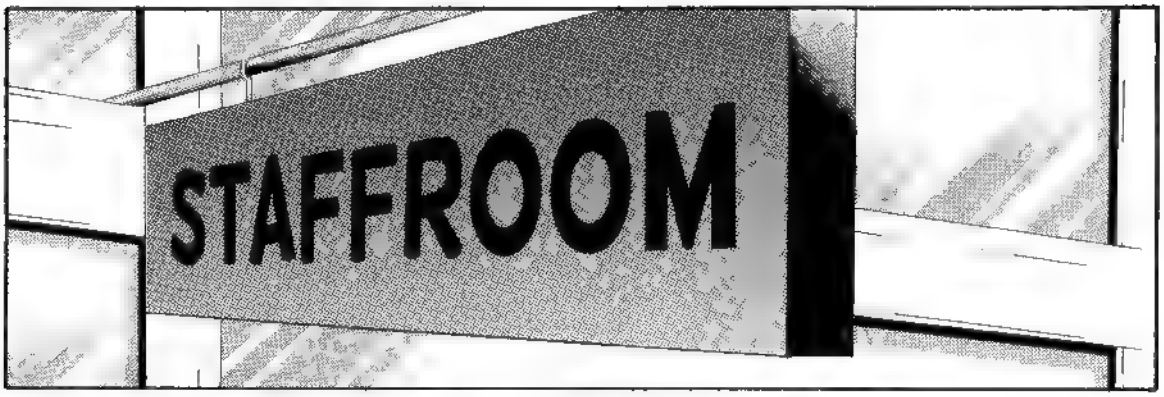
SUZUKA
涼風
#139 THE TEACHER

YUP!
SEE YOU GUYS TOMOR-ROW!

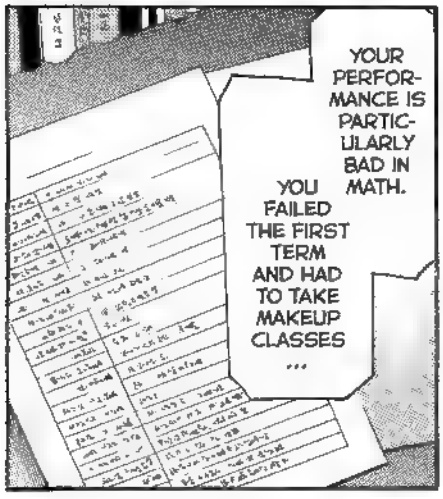
DON'T HURT YOURSELF BEFORE THE TRYOUTS, OKAY?
SEE YOU LATER, AKITSUKI! KICK ASS IN PRACTICE!

HEY, LET'S GO HAVE CAKE, HATTORI.
YOUR TREAT!
HUH?! IN YOUR DREAMS!!

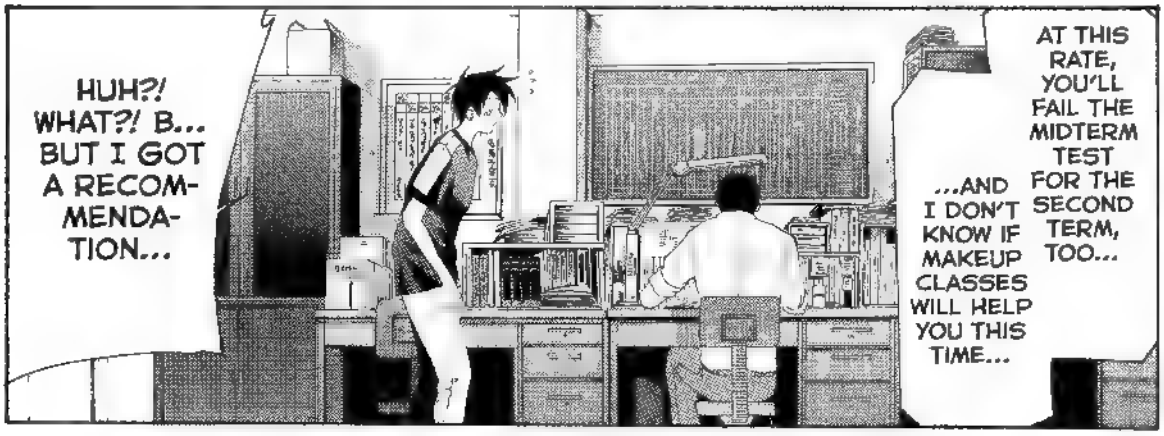
OKAY...
I TALKED A BIG GAME TO ARIMA!
SO I GOTTA MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE I PASS THE TRYOUTS!!
OH, AKI-TSU-KI!
UH... YES?
COULD YOU COME TO THE STAFF-ROOM?
THERE'S SOME-THING IMPOR-TANT I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.


STAFFROOM

HUH ...?
MY GRADES ...?!


YOUR PERFORMANCE IS PARTICULARLY BAD IN MATH.
YOU FAILED THE FIRST TERM AND HAD TO TAKE MAKEUP CLASSES ...

YES ...
WITH YOUR CURRENT GRADES, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GRADUATE.


HUH?! WHAT?! B... BUT I GOT A RECOM-MENDA-TION...
...AND I DON'T KNOW IF MAKEUP CLASSES WILL HELP YOU THIS TIME...
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL FAIL THE MIDTERM TEST FOR THE SECOND TERM, TOO...

W...WITH-DRAWN?!
...

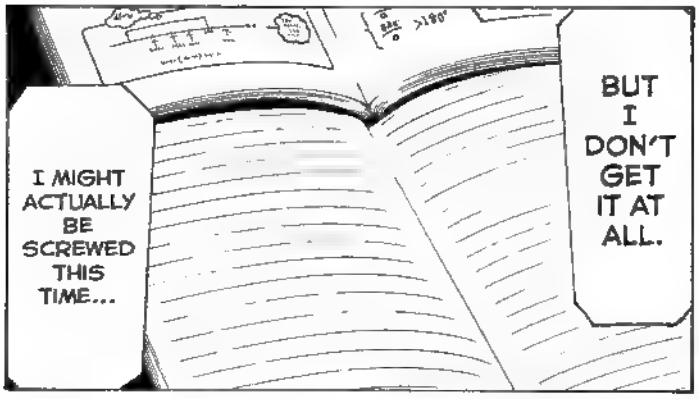
DING
UH... IS THERE ANY-THING THAT CAN BE DONE ...?
WELL, ALL YOU CAN DO IS STUDY, REALLY. GOOD LUCK.
DONG
DANG
UH... BUT ISN'T THERE ANY-THING EL SE ...
NOPE.
DONG

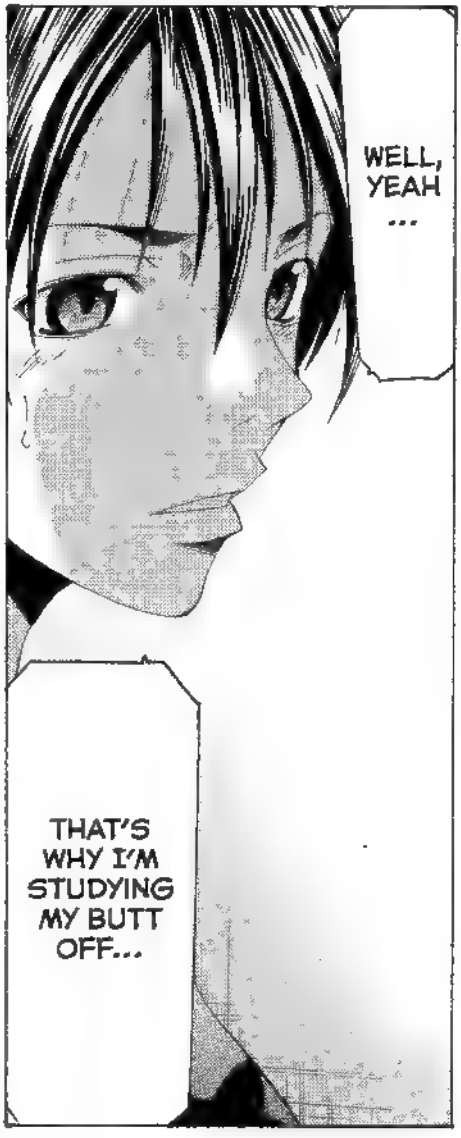
WHICH WILL BE WITH-DRAWN ...
...IF YOU FAIL.

...
TCH
TCH
TCH
AHHHH! I DON'T GET IT!!
WHOOSH
WHAT THE HECK ARE SINE, COSINE AND TANGENT ?!
WHY IS THERE ENGLISH IN MATH?!
TAP
I CAN'T EVEN FIGURE THAT OUT!!
THIS IS BAD... REAL BAD...
AT THIS RATE, I MIGHT ACTUALLY FLUNK ...

DING
DONG
HM ...?
ASA-HINA ...
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ...?
KERCHAK
HOW'S IT GOING ...?
MAKING ANY PROG-RESS?
AYANO-SAN WANTED YOU TO EAT SOME ONIGIRI AT LEAST ...
SINCE YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HAD DINNER ...
UH... YEAH... THANKS.

TO THINK YOU MIGHT FLUNK OUT 'CAUSE OF MATH, OF ALL THINGS.
STILL, I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE IT.


I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE SCREWED THIS TIME...
BUT I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.

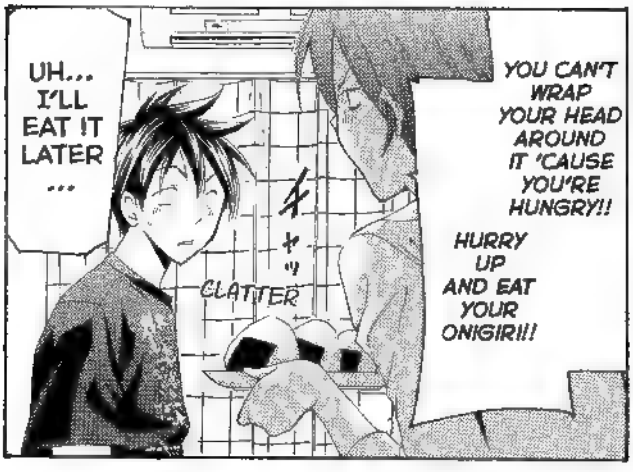

WELL, YEAH ...
THAT'S WHY I'M STUDYING MY BUTT OFF...

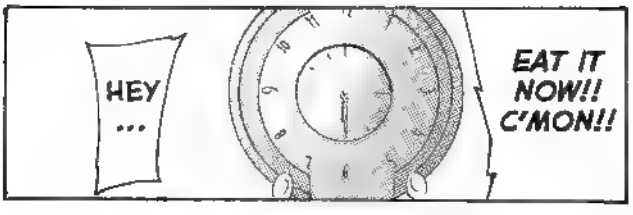
HUH ...?
HEY ...
IF YOU'RE COOL WITH IT, WHY DON'T I TEACH YOU...?

UH... YEAH, ALTHOUGH I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT MATH, EITHER.
N...NO WAY! REALLY?!
LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST.
WE WANNA GO TO UNIVERSITY TOGETHER, RIGHT?
U...UH, OKAY. I'D APPRECIATE THAT.
I'M SO GLAD WE'RE TOGETHER...!
SURE, IF IT'D HELP ...
ASAHINA ...

BAM
HOW DID YOU GET AN ANSWER LIKE THIS?!
DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT I SAID?!
NO... UH...
I'M SORRY ...
DON'T APOL-OGIZE! JUST PAY ATTEN-TION!!
RIGHT HERE!!
YES, MA'AM !!

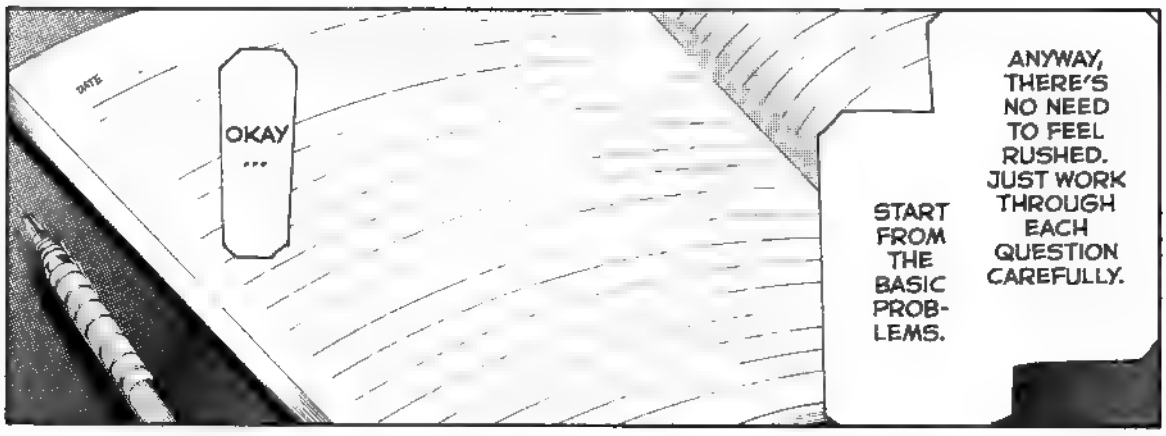
WHAP!!!
WHAP!!!
YOU HAVE IT WRONG FROM THE VERY FIRST EQUATION!!
DON'T JUST WRITE WHATEVER WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE FORMULA!!

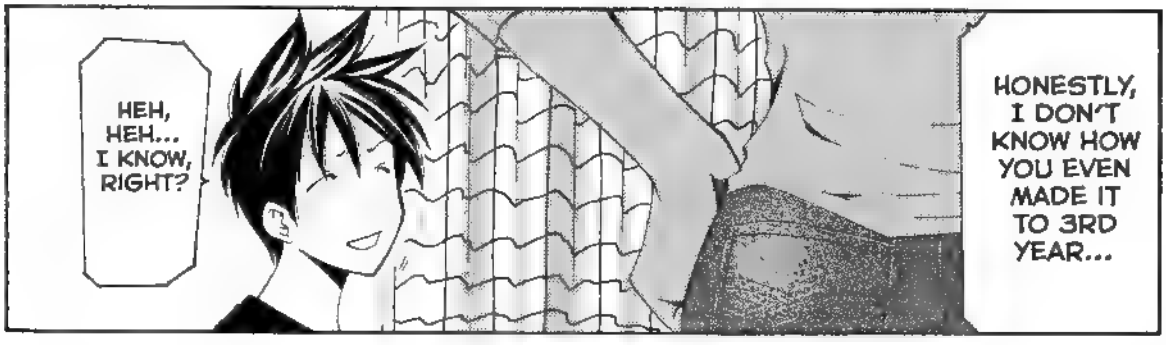

UH... I'LL EAT IT LATER ...
CLATTER
YOU CAN'T WRAP YOUR HEAD AROUND IT 'CAUSE YOU'RE HUNGRY!!
HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR ONIGIRI!!

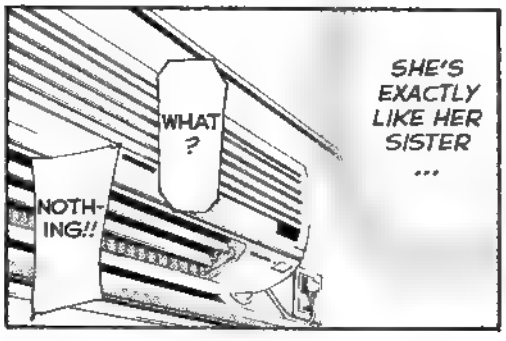

HEY ...
EAT IT NOW!! C'MON!!

MMPH!
THIS IS HELL!!

S... SORRY ...
I CAN'T SEEM TO WRAP MY HEAD AROUND IT...
No. Crown


DATE
OKAY ...
START FROM THE BASIC PROB-LEMS.
ANYWAY, THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL RUSHED. JUST WORK THROUGH EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY.

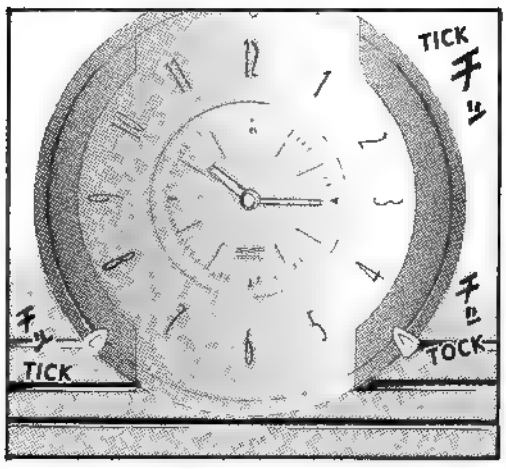

HEH, HEH... I KNOW, RIGHT?
HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU EVEN MADE IT TO 3RD YEAR...


NOTH-ING!!
WHAT ?
SHE'S EXACTLY LIKE HER SISTER ...

HUH ...?
ANYWAY, TRY TO SOLVE UP TO QUES-TION FIVE ON YOUR OWN.

SO SCARY!!
THAT WASN'T A COMPLI-MENT.
SORRY...

I'LL BE HERE WAITING ...
CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
CREAK
YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM, Y'KNOW? YOU—
OH... THAT'S OKAY ...
YES MA'AM ...
SO TOUGH!!
GET TO WORK AL-READY!!
THEN I KNOW YOU WON'T DO IT!!


TICK
チッ
チッ
TICK
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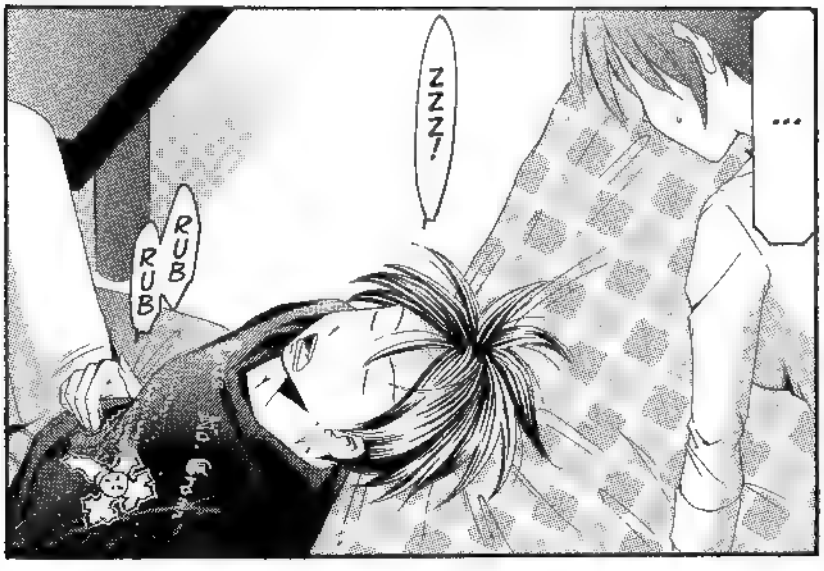
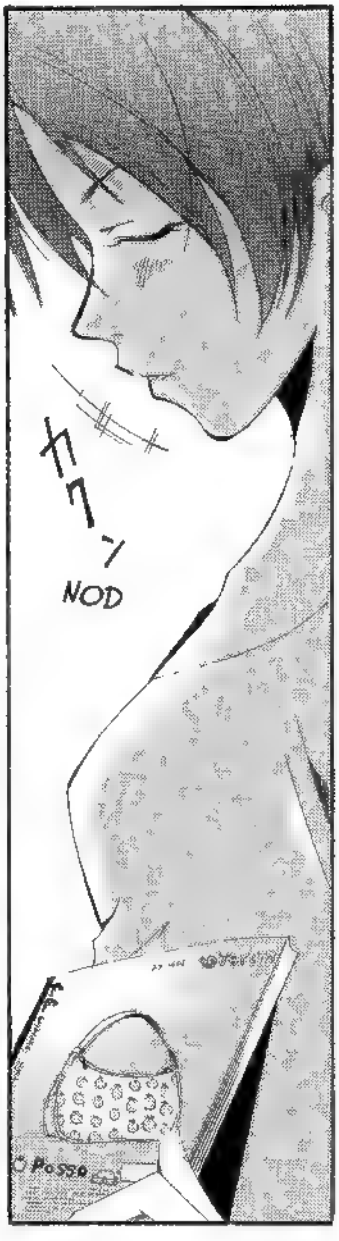
TOCK

OH... CRAP. I DOZED OFF...

YAMATO-KUN, HOW'S IT COMING ALO—


...
ZZZ!
RUB RUB RUB


ナニ
NOD

HUH ...?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
I'M WAITING HERE, AND YOU DOZE OFF...
IT'S... ALL DONE...
FLIP
...
ZZZ...
ZZZ...

WHEN YOU'RE DONE!
POKE
POKE
AT LEAST TELL ME...

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
ERM...

HEY!
PINCH

SNICKER
SNICKER

MMPH!
SNIKER
SNIKER
TWITCH
SNORT !!

すぴー
zzz
すぴー
zzz
スス
RUSTLE
YAMATO-KUN...
GOOD JOB...

IF YOU DON'T WAKE UP NOW, YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE!
TIME FOR BREAK FAST, ONI CHAN
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
NNN

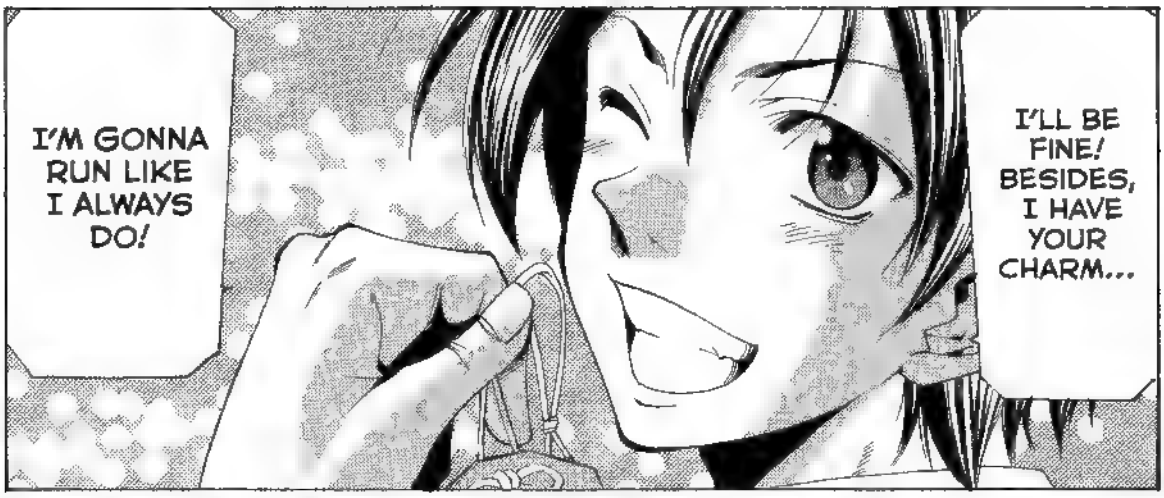
CLOP
カン
DASH
CLOP
カン
CLOP
CLOP
カン
JOLT
BASIC
CLONK
カッ
CLOP
カン
ALL RIGHT ...!

涼風 SUZUKA

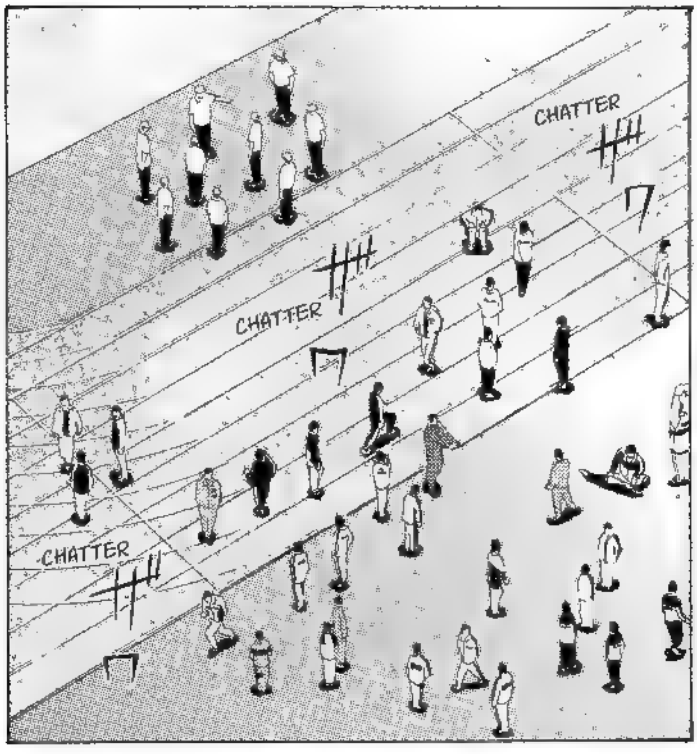
#140 THE TRYOUTS

YAMATO-KUUUN!
カン
CLOP
カン
CLOP
カン
CLOP
WAIT!
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANNA GIVE YOU!
HUH ...?
HERE... I GOT THIS YESTER-DAY.
ASA-HINA ...
WHAT IS IT...?
OH...

I PICKED IT UP WHILE I WAS ON AN ERRAND.
EASY CHILDBIRTH
IT'S A CHARM!
HUH ...?
A CHARM FOR EASY CHILDBIRTH?! YOU DO KNOW I HAVE TRYOUTS, RIGHT?
I SEE!
WELL, IT WORKED ...
WHEN I GOT IT FROM YOU LAST TIME, SO...
THANKS, ASAHINA! I'LL DO MY BEST!
YOU CAN BE A KLUTZ, SO JUST DON'T MAKE ANY SILLY MISTAKES, YAMATO-KUN!
ASAHIYU BATH


I'M GONNA RUN LIKE I ALWAYS DO!
I'LL BE FINE! BESIDES, I HAVE YOUR CHARM...

OKAY ...


CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

SEIJO UNIVERSITY TRACK TEAM
TRYOUT MEETING

SO MANY PEOPLE ...
WHOA ...
7

EVERYONE, PLEASE WARM-UP ON YOUR OWN!!
THE TRYOUTS WILL START IN 30 MINUTES!!

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE ALL TRYING OUT FOR THE 100M...!
NO... IT'LL BE FINE...

HOW'S IT GOIN', AKITSUKI? YOU PRACTICE HARD?
HMMM?
CRACK
CRACK
OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!
7

!!
GRAB

I SEE. GLAD TO HEAR.
I...I'M FINE. I PRACTICED HARD AND I'M IN GREAT SHAPE...
COUGH!
COUGH!
EVERYONE'S AT PRETTY MUCH THE SAME LEVEL AS YOU. YOU'RE GOING UP AGAINST THEM, AFTER ALL!
JUST DON'T GET COM-FORTABLE, Y'HEAR?
I'M GONNA MAKE SURE I PASS!!
FOR ASAHINA, TOO, WHO EVEN GOT ME THIS CHARM...
COUGH!
I KNOW ...

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT I'LL PLACE AGAIN THIS TIME.
I JUST BARELY MADE 3RD PLACE BACK THEN...
ONLY ONE PER-SON?!
N...NO WAY!
YO, I HEARD ONLY ONE PERSON MAKES IT THROUGH FOR EACH CATEGORY THIS TIME AROUND.
ALL RIGHT, TAKE YOUR POSI-TIONS!
ONLY ONE ?!
YOU SERIOUS?! THEY'RE BEING SO TOUGH!!
TMP
OUT OF THE FIVE OF US, WHO ARE ALL ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL...
ONLY ONE WILL BE CHOSEN...

I APPROACHED THIS NAIVELY...
IT'S GONNA BE REALLY TOUGH TO MAKE IT...
KA-CHAK
KA-CHAK
IF I DON'T MAKE IT HERE ...
...THERE'S NO WAY I'LL GET IN BY PASSING THE EN-TRANCE EXAM...
FWIP

I HOPE WE GET TO GO...
...TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS ASAHINA...
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN ...!
ON YOUR MARK!!
I'M GONNA GET IN ...
I HAVE TO!!

BANG
KRRRK
HUH...?
?!
I MESSED UP!!
SHOOT ...!!

THAT IDIOT!!
MURMUR
WHOA, NUMBER 7 TOTALLY MISSED THE STARTING PISTOL!
SHIT ...!!!
I'M NOT LOSING ...
...OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!
BURST
PASH

NGGGH.
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
A LITTLE MORE AND I CAN...
!!
WHOOSH

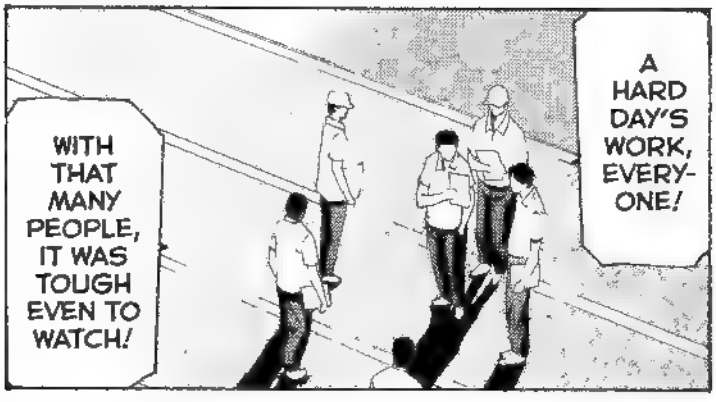
...
YEAH!!
10
YOU OVERDID IT AT THE START.
YOU IDIOT ...
TMP
ASAHIYU BATHS
OH ...!

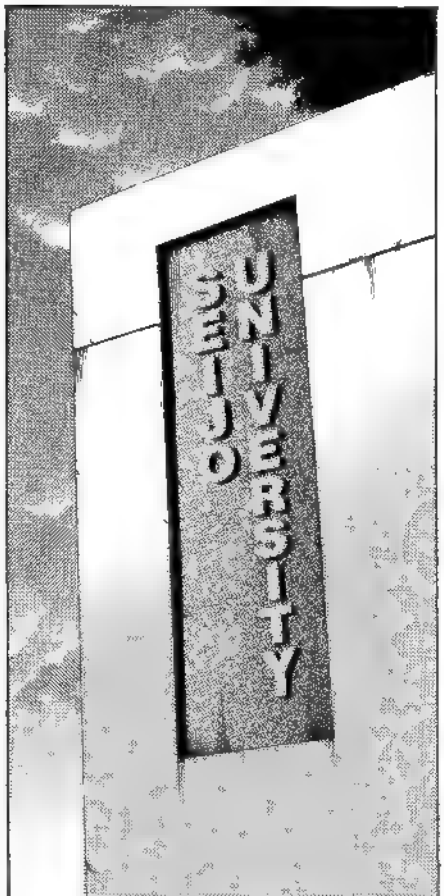
HEY! HOW'D THE TRYOUTS GO?
TMP
YAMATO-KUN!
CLENCH
UH ...
YOU... DIDN'T MAKE IT...?
...
WELL... THE RESULTS AREN'T OUT YET, BUT...
YEAH... I DON'T THINK SO... I MADE A LOT OF MIS-TAKES...

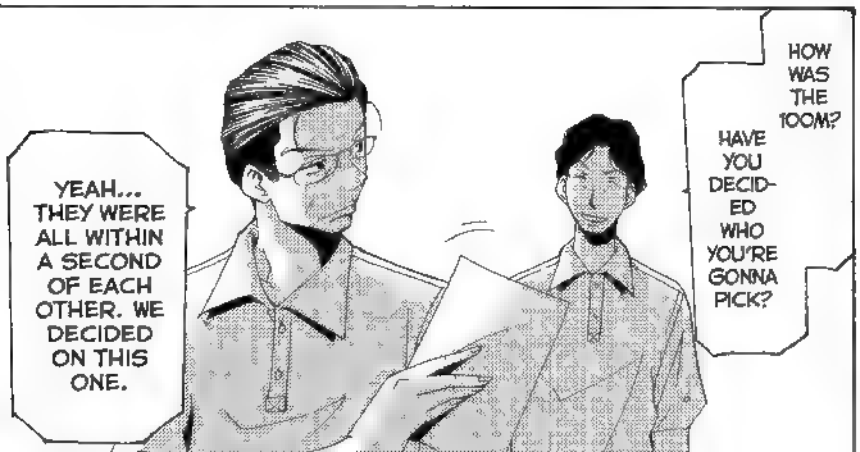
SORRY...

Y...YOU STILL DON'T KNOW! THE RESULTS AREN'T OUT YET, RIGHT?
SORRY ... I KNOW YOU HELPED ME OUT A LOT, ASAHINA ...

YAMATO-KUN...
...


WITH THAT MANY PEOPLE, IT WAS TOUGH EVEN TO WATCH!
A HARD DAY'S WORK, EVERY-ONE!


SEIJO UNIVERSITY


YEAH... THEY WERE ALL WITHIN A SECOND OF EACH OTHER. WE DECIDED ON THIS ONE.
HAVE YOU DECID-ED WHO YOU'RE GONNA PICK?
HOW WAS THE TOOM?

MISSED STARTS ARE A COMMON MISTAKE.
HUH ...?
HIS TIME ISN'T THAT GREAT. ARE YOU SURE?

THIS KID'S GOT TALENT.
STILL, HE MADE UP THE MOST GROUND IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE RACE.

ALTHOUGH I BET HE'LL BE THE MOST SURPRISED...
...WHEN THE RESULTS GET ANNOUNCED.

#141 THE FAILED STUDENT

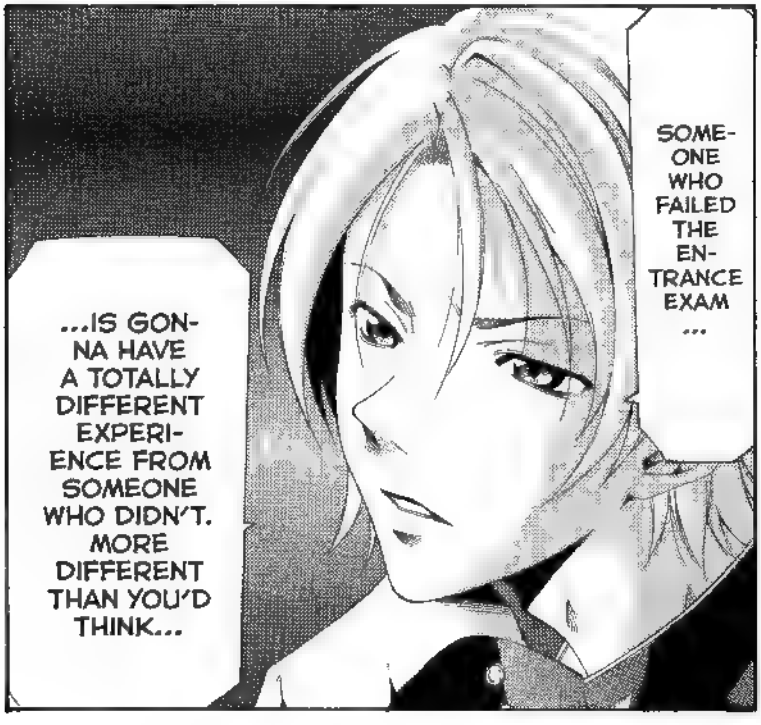
HELL
NOOOO!!

C...COME ON!
THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET IN IS THROUGH THE ENTRANCE EXAM NOW!

I TOLD YOU, LET'S CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE HEAR THE RESULTS OF THE TRYOUTS!
SLAM
THERE'S NO WAY I GOT IN!! IF I THOUGHT I DID, I WOULDN'T BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION!!

IS IT THAT TOUGH GETTING INTO SEIJO ...?
...
IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT YOU EVEN GOT INTO OUR HIGH SCHOOL ...
SSSIP
SAYS THE GUY WHO MADE IT THIS FAR FAILING HIS CLASSES!
SO... WHAT IF I FAIL IT AND RETAKE IT NEXT YEAR?!
WITH YOUR BRAINS, THERE ISN'T EVEN A 0.1% CHANCE THAT YOU'LL GET IN BY PASSING THE EXAM!
A...
AGAIN AFTER THAT ?!
HMM... STILL, ABOUT 10%.
OKAY, AND IF I TAKE IT AGAIN ...?
20%
AND AGAIN AFTER THAT?!
30%
ARE YOU SERI-OUS ?!
WELL ... ...
BY THEN, MAAAY-BE...

RIGHT ...
SSSIP
BUT BY THEN, SUZUKA-CHAN WILL HAVE GRADUATED ...

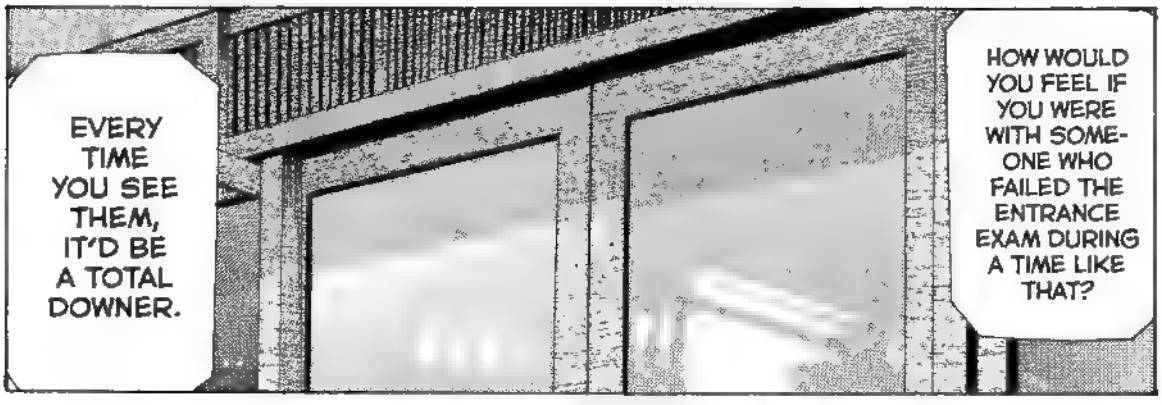

SOME-ONE WHO FAILED THE EN-TRANCE EXAM ...
...IS GON-NA HAVE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT EXPERI-ENCE FROM SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T. MORE DIFFERENT THAN YOU'D THINK...

AND YOU KNOW ...
IT'S A BAD IDEA EVEN TO RETAKE THE EXAM, Y'KNOW?
WH... WHY'S THAT ...?

N...
NO WAY ...

HUH...? FAILING THE EXAM?
ASAHIYU BATHS
I DUNNO... I MEAN, I WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH A GUY THAT STUPID...
Y... YEAH ...
IF YOUR BOYFRIEND TURNED OUT TO BE A STUDENT WHO FAILED THE ENTRANCE EXAM, WHAT WOULD YOU DO, YUKA-SAN?
WH... WHY NOT?!
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, RIGHT ?!
ASAHIYU BATHS
THAT'S WHAT EVERY-ONE THINKS AT FIRST.
BUT, WELL ...
I HAVEN'T EVER REALLY HEARD OF IT GOING WELL...

YOU MAKE A LOT OF FRIENDS, JOIN CLUBS, GO TO MATCH-MAKING PARTIES...
BUT UNIVERSITY IS A LOT OF FUN, Y'KNOW ...


EVERY TIME YOU SEE THEM, IT'D BE A TOTAL DOWNER.
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE WITH SOME-ONE WHO FAILED THE ENTRANCE EXAM DURING A TIME LIKE THAT?

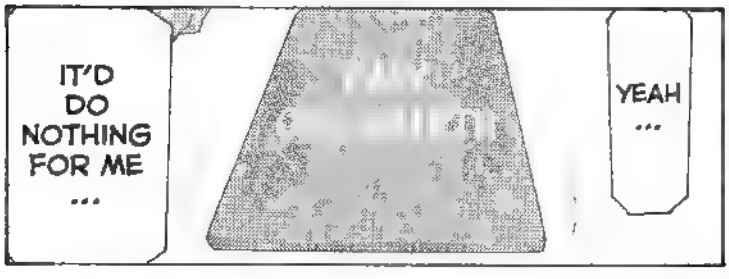
IT SEEMS MOST COUPLES LIKE THAT BREAK UP, Y'KNOW?
IN THE END, IT'D BE TOO HARD TO GO OUT WITH THAT PERSON ...
...
AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY-THING IN COMMON ...
THEY'D BE STUDYING ALL THE TIME, SO YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO GO ON ANY DATES ...

...
I SEE ...
THANKS FOR SHARING THAT ...
NO POINT DWELLING ON THINGS LIKE THAT ...
IT'LL ALL WORK OUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED.
AL-THOUGH YOU NEVER KNOW ...
THERE MIGHT BE PEOPLE WHO DON'T END UP THAT WAY...
IF I END UP FAILING THE ENTRANCE EXAM...
NO DOUBT ASAHINA WILL...

301
YAMATO AKITSUKI
...FEEL WEIGHED DOWN BY ME, TOO...

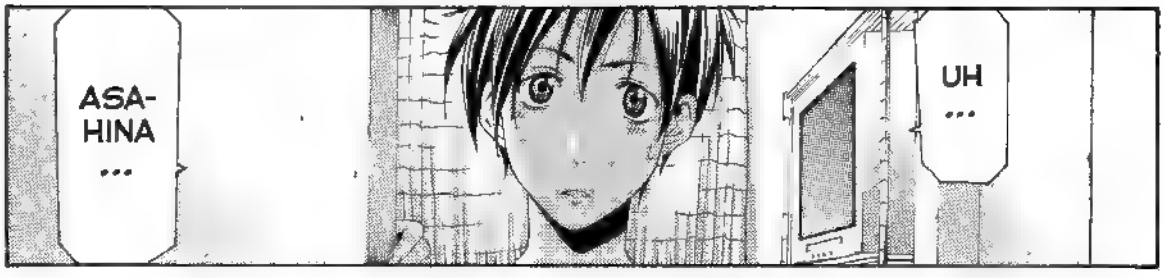
AN EASY CHILDBIRTH CHARM WOULDN'T BE EFFECTIVE... I MEAN, I AM A GUY, SO...
SIGH ...

KANBUL FIELD


IT'D DO NOTHING FOR ME ...
YEAH ...

KER-CHAK
HM ...?

YAMATO-KUN ...
AREN'T YOU GONNA EAT?


ASA-HINA ...
UH ...

OH... OKAY. IF YOU'RE FREE, WANNA WATCH TV TOGETH-ER?!
AN INTER-ESTING SHOW STARTED LAST WEEK!

SORRY ...
I'M NOT HUNGRY TODAY...
BUT ...

UM ...
SURE ...

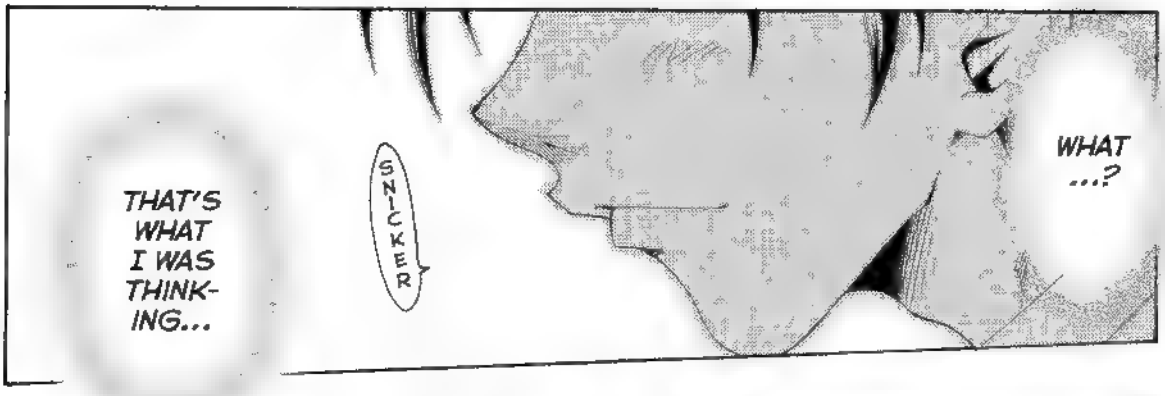
YEAHHH!
YEAHHH!
OH, MAN! THAT WOULD TOTALLY PISS ME OFF!
...
SHE'S BEING CONSIDERATE LIKE THIS...
IN THE END, IT'D BE TOO HARD TO GO OUT WITH THAT PERSON...
IT SEEMS MOST COUPLES LIKE THAT BREAK UP, Y'KNOW?
...
AND STAYING WITH ME NOW, BUT...
HEY ...
HM ...?

IF I END UP FAILING THE ENTRANCE EXAM, ASAHINA...
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
YEAHHH!
WE HAVEN'T HEARD THE RESULTS OF THE TRYOUTS YET...
YEAHHH!
AND EVEN IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, THERE'S ALWAYS THE ENTRANCE EXAM...
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...
THERE'S NO WAY I'M PASSING THE ENTRANCE EXAM ...
EVEN YASUNOBU SAID SO...

SO IF I DO END UP FAILING ...
I'M WONDERING IF WE'LL STILL BE TOGETHER ...
HUH ...?
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THAT?
WELL, YEAH!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU DID FAIL THE ENTRANCE EXAM...
I WOULDN'T BE BOTHERED BY THAT ONE BIT!
O... OKAY ...
BUT...

IF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES START CHANGING DOWN THE ROAD...
AND ASAHINA AND I END UP IN DIFFERENT PLACES IN LIFE...
WILL ASAHINA'S FEELINGS FOR ME...
REALLY STAY THE SAME?
...
OH... BUT THERE IS ONE THING...
HUH ...?

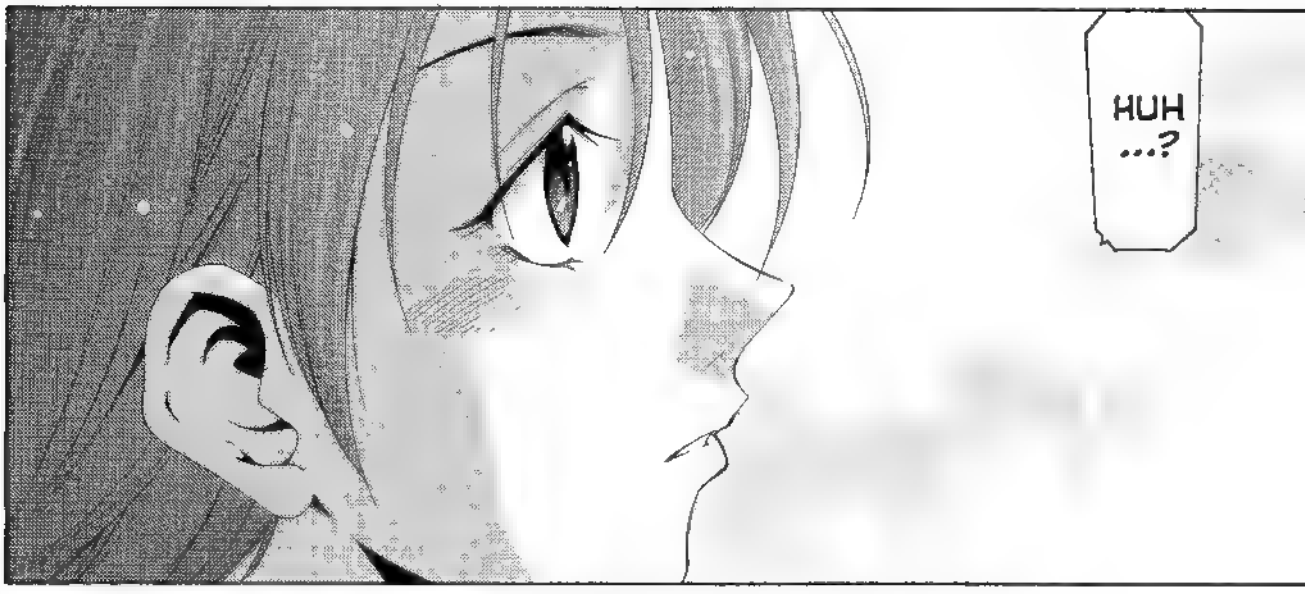
EVEN IF OUR CIRCUM-STANCES CHANGE ...
I WONDER IF YOU'LL STILL WANNA BE WITH ME...
HUH ...?
I MIGHT BE...
...A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THAT...

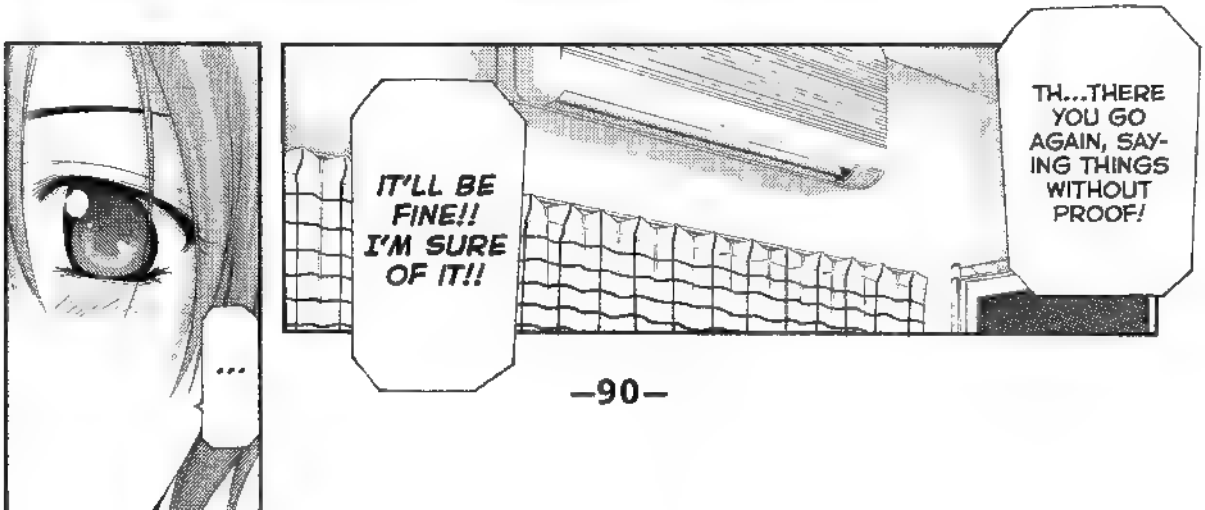


HERE I WAS, WORRIED THIS WHOLE TIME THAT WE'D BREAK UP...

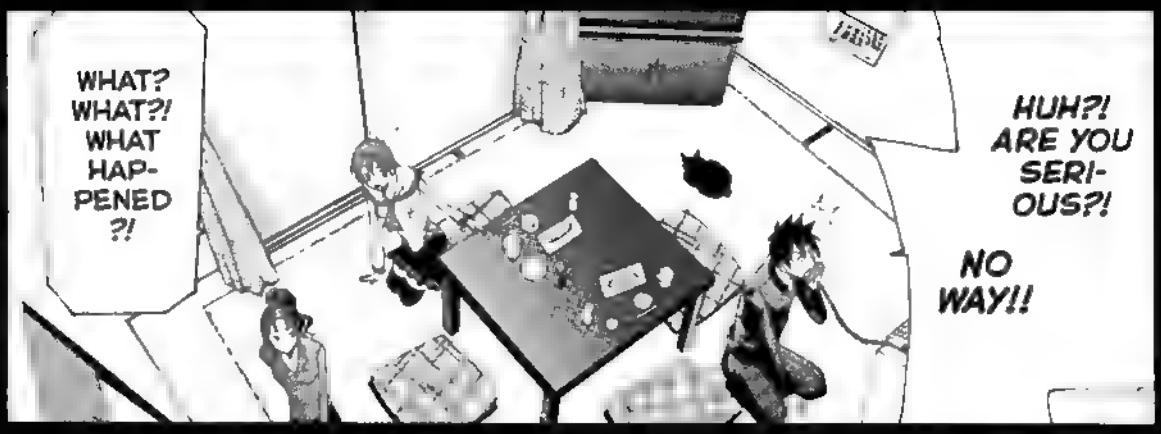
WHEN WE WERE BOTH THINKING THE SAME THING...

WE'LL STILL BE TOGETHER AFTER-WARDS...
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.


HUH ...?


TH...THERE YOU GO AGAIN, SAY-ING THINGS WITHOUT PROOF!
IT'LL BE FINE!! I'M SURE OF IT!!
...

WHETHER I GET INTO UNIVERSITY OR NOT...
W... WELL... I HOPE SO...
YEAH...
SO LONG AS WE BOTH FEEL THE SAME WAY WE DO NOW...
I THINK WE'LL BE OKAY...
YAMATO-KUUUN! YOUR TEACH-ER'S ON THE OTHER LINE!!
...
HUH ...?


WHAT? WHAT?! WHAT HAP-PENED ?!
HUH?! ARE YOU SERI-OUS?!
NO WAY!!

YEAH, I HEARD EARLIER FROM THE LANDLADY.
OH... SAOTOME-SAN, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT YAMATO-KUN'S RESULTS?

THAT'S WHY I TOLD HIM...
THINGS WILL WORK OUT BETTER THAN EX-PECTED ...

YOU'RE SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN, YAMATO-KUN!
HEH... HEH HEH... WELL, I REALLY DID SCREW UP A LOT THOUGH...
YOU MADE IT THROUGH AFTER ALL!
GETTING EVERYONE SO WORRIED ...
OH, YEAH! COULD IT BE THANKS TO THIS?!
THE POWER OF THE CHARM!!
AND EVERY-ONE ELSE WAS REALLY IN SHAPE, SO I WAS SURE I FAILED...
OH BOY ...
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH ...
IT WAS DEFINITELY PURE LUCK THAT I PASSED.
SUZUKA

YOU THINK SO? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
I MEAN, THEY CAN'T JUDGE YOU ON THE TIME YOU GOT IN YOUR TRYOUT ALONE.
MAYBE YOU WERE EVALUATED ON THINGS OTHER THAN YOUR TIME, LIKE YOUR FUTURE POTENTIAL...
...
WELL ...
WELL, OBVIOUSLY! DON'T START SLACKING OFF JUST 'CAUSE YOU GOT IN!!
I KNOW, I KNOW! TRUST ME, WILL YA?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I GOTTA MAKE SURE I DON'T LET THEM DOWN.

"CELE-BRATE"...?
YEAH. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
BUT Y'KNOW, SINCE YOU GOT IN...
LET'S CELE-BRATE!
UH...
I DON'T KNOW...
YUP. TO-MORROW, I'M GOING BACK TO YOKOHA-MA...
ON THE WAY THERE, I'LL TAKE YOU SOME-PLACE NICE.
UH... OKAY...
HUH...? YOU WERE?
IN THAT CASE, I WAS KINDA PLANNING SOME-THING, SO IS IT COOL IF WE DO THAT?

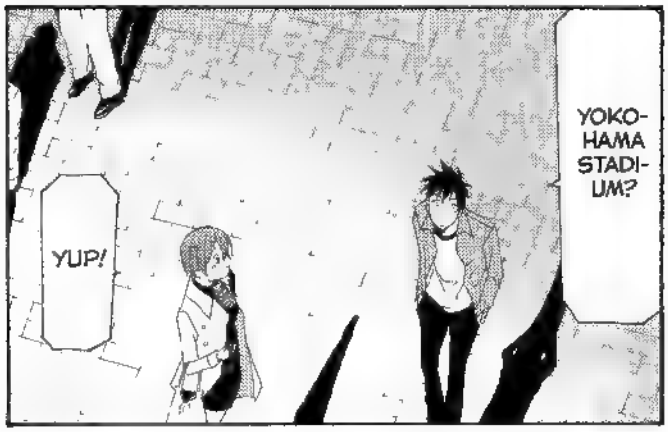
#142 CELEBRATION

UH... OKAY ...

DON'T WORRY! YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT, YAMATO -KUN!
IT'S ALREADY EVENING, THOUGH ... WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO?

WAS THERE SOME-THING THAT I'D LIKE IN YOKOHA-MA?
UH... REALLY ...?

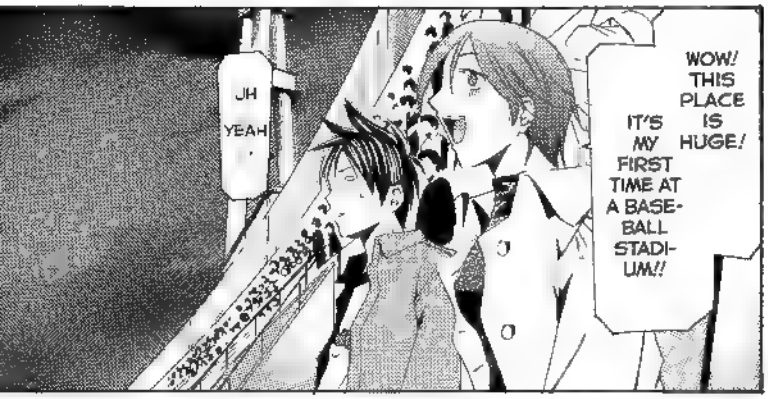
QUICK! C'MON!

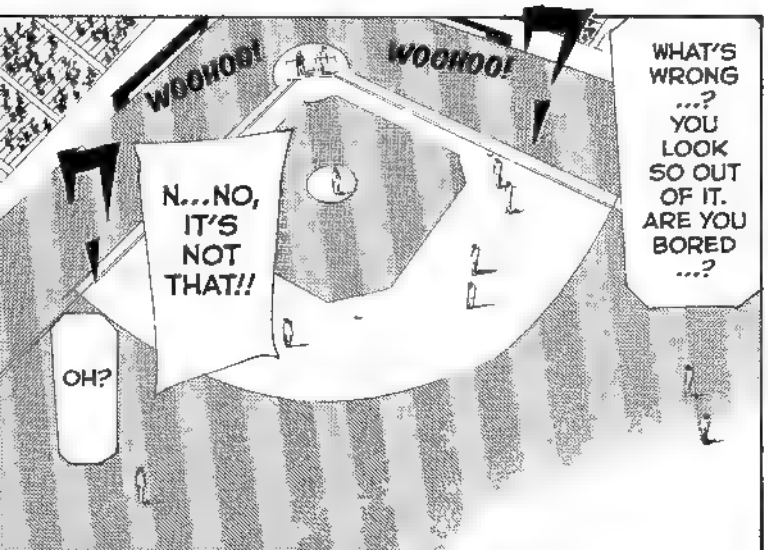

YOKO-
HAMA
STADI-
UM?
YUP!

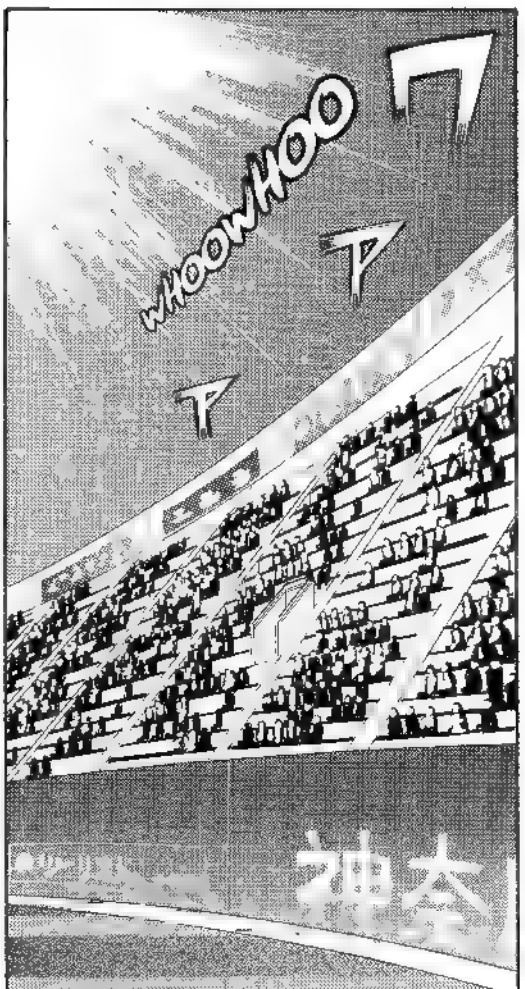
ADVANC
THE HIRO-
SHIMA
CARPS
VERSUS
THE
YOKO-
HAMA
BAY
STARS!
FLAP
FLAP
I GOT
'EM
HOPING
WE COULD
GO WHEN
YOU
PASSED
THE
TRYOUTS!

HUH
?!
NO
WAY!!

HUH ...?
YOU HAVE CONNEC-TIONS OR SOME-THING, ASAHINA?!
HOW DID YOU GET THEM SO LAST MINUTE ?!
HEH HEH! RIGHT?
A...ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
THAT'S AWWWE-SOME!!
OH... I SEE...
THAT'S... A DIF-FERENT STORY...
I WAS ABLE TO GET 'EM EASILY 'CAUSE IT'S A THROWAWAY MATCH...


JH YEAH.
WOW! THIS PLACE IS HUGE!
IT'S MY FIRST TIME AT A BASE-BALL STADI-UM!!


WOOHOO!
WOOHOO!
N...NO, IT'S NOT THAT!!
OH?
WHAT'S WRONG ...? YOU LOOK SO OUT OF IT. ARE YOU BORED ...?


WHOOWHOO
神本

MIURA'S OFF HIS GAME TODAY.
BUT WE'RE SITTING SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STANDS FOR THE BAY STARS.
YEAHHH!
YOU CAN GET IT, ISH!!!!
ASAHINA MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN WHEN SHE GOT THE TICKETS ...

BUT SHE DID REMEMBER THAT I LIKE BASEBALL, AT LEAST.
...

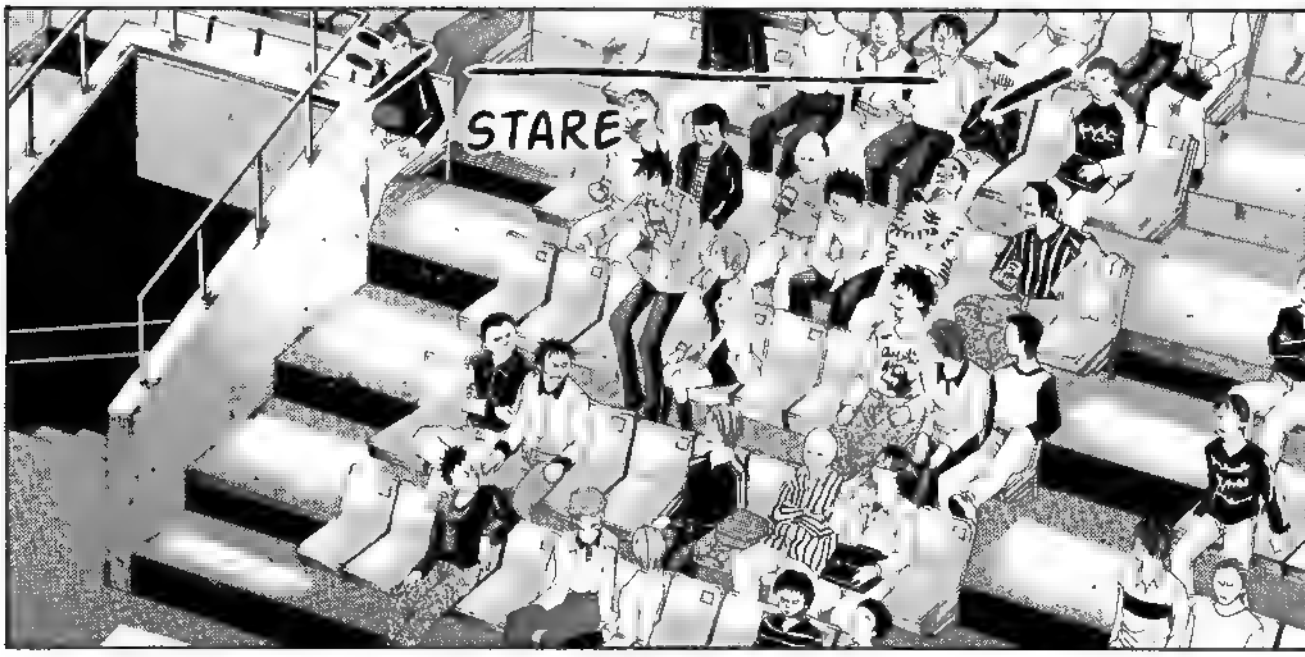
WHISPER
C'MON, MAEDA! HIT IT!
I MIGHT AS WELL CHEER THE CARPS QUIETLY ...

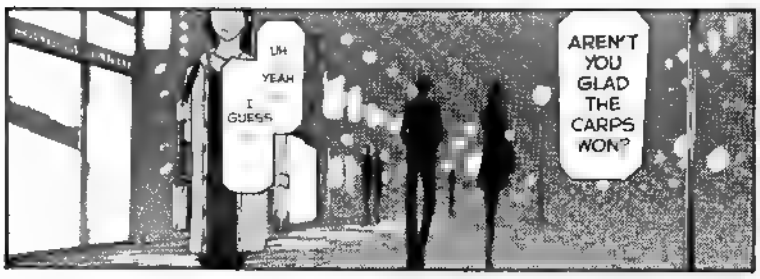
CRACK

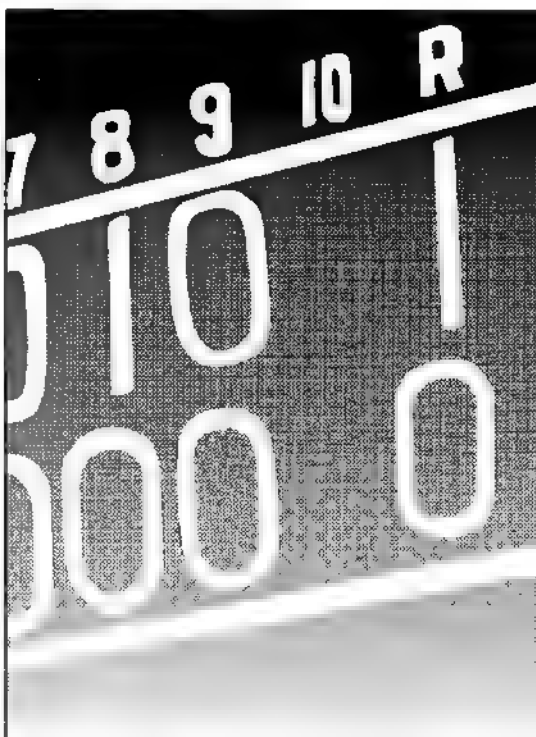
SHE'S A LITTLE CLUMSY...
BUT SHE CAN BE CUTE...

CATCH
...?!
WHOA! HE HIT IT!!
CLATTER
AW, THAT'S TOO BAD. I THOUGHT IT'D BE A HOME RUN.
DASH
GO! RUN! RUN, SOYOGI!! RUN TO HOME!!
AHHHH!
SAFE! SAFE!!
SLIIIDE
TAG UUUP!!
?!

YES!! WE'RE AHEAD!!
HIRO-SHIMA NEVER GIVES UP IN BASE-BALL ...
...
GASP!


STARE


AREN'T YOU GLAD THE CARPS WON?
UH YEAH I GUESS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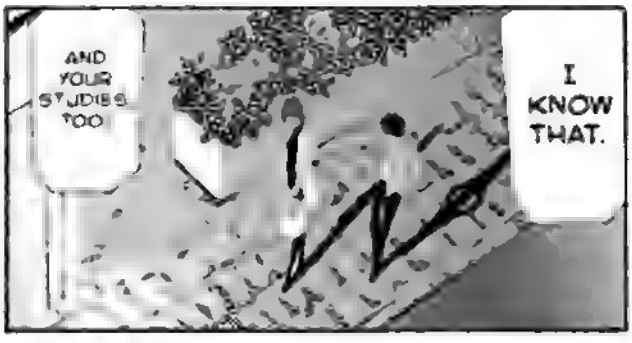
UH... I DUNNO... MAYBE YOU IMAG-INED IT.
BUT I WONDER WHY EV-ERYONE KEPT GLARING AT US...

WELL... AS LONG AS YOU HAD FUN, YAMATO-KUN!
HOP
YEAH, I REALLY DID! THANKS!
ANYWAY, THE STATION IS RIGHT THERE, SO I'LL GO WITH YOU.
UH... ACTU-ALLY ...
LET ME WALK YOU ...
...BACK TO YOUR PLACE.
HUH ...?
BUT I'D FEEL BAD.
IT'S OKAY! REALLY!! BESIDES, IT'S DAN-GEROUS TO GO ALONE!!
RIGHT ?!
UH... YEAH... WELL, OKAY, THEN...
I WANT TO BE WITH HER A BIT LONGER...
IF I CAN...

TMP
BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY
HUH ...?
TMP

I GOT INTO SEIJO, AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO GRADUATE ..
SO I CAN FOCUS ON SPENDING TIME WITH YOU FOR A WHILE
YOU KNOW


I KNOW THAT.
AND YOUR STUDIES TOO

IF YOU SLACK OFF, YOU'RE GONNA FAIL AGAIN, Y'KNOW?
YEAH

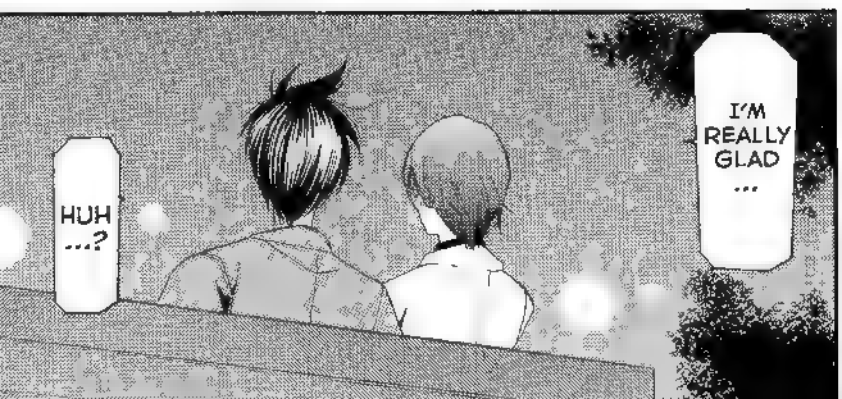
I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, TOO. THE IMPORTANT THING IS WHAT'S AHEAD!
IF YOU DON'T KEEP TRAINING, YOUR TIME IS GONNA DROP..

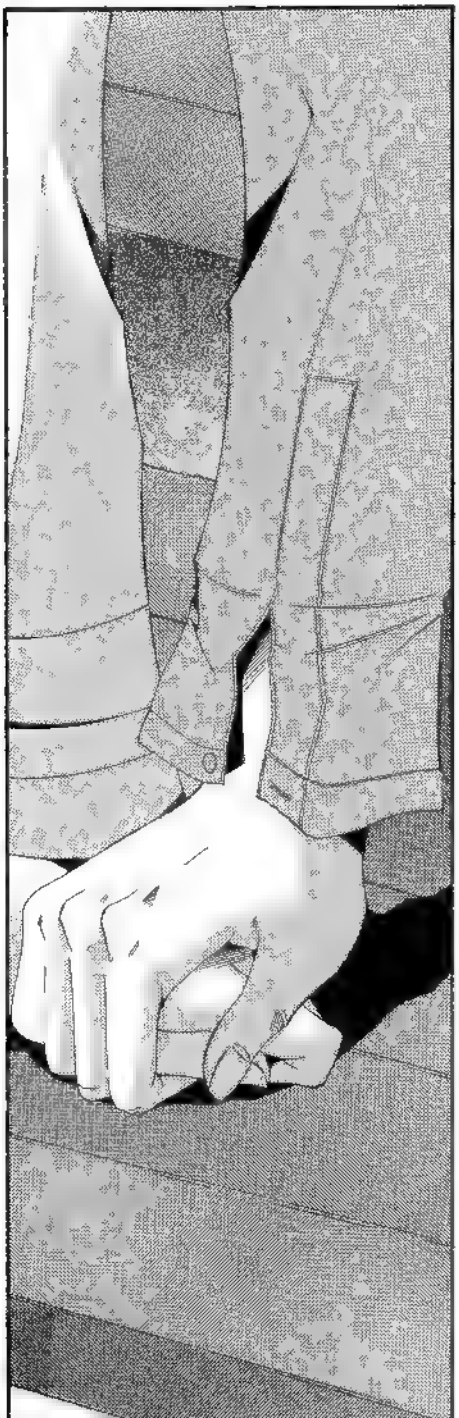
I JUST HAD TO OPEN MY MOUTH ...
HEH ... HEH HEH ...
IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TO KEEP YOU IN LINE, YAMATO-KUN.
OTHER-WISE, YOU'LL GO RIGHT BACK TO FALLING BEHIND.
MAN ...
IT'S A LOT CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT ...
OH, YOUR HOUSE IS AT THE TOP OF THIS HILL, RIGHT ...?
...
UH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT ...
HUH ...?
THEN DO YOU WANNA TAKE A SMALL DETOUR ...?

OOH
SO THERE'S A PARK LIKE THIS NEAR YOUR HOUSE

A LITTLE BUT I'M OKAY

IT'S NICE AND QUIET HERE
UM, HUH


HUH ...?
I'M REALLY GLAD ...



WE GET TO GO...
UH... YEAH...
WHOA...
ASAHINA LOOKS SO CUTE...!
...TO THE SAME SCHOOL!

IT'S THE PERFECT MOMENT, AND I AM HER BOY-FRIEND...!
SHOULD I TAKE THIS OPPOR-TUNITY TO CALL HER "SUZUKA"?
SU ...?
I'M REALLY GLAD, TOO...
SU... SU...
WHO JUST CALLS MY GIRL-FRIEND LIKE THAT ...?!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
UH ...
HUH ...?
?!
SUZU-KA!

DAD!
HUH...?
...
D...
"DAD"?!

HUH
DAD!
"DAD"?!
FUZUKA

涼風
SUZUKA
#143 FATHER

...
UM ...!
UH ...
THIS IS MY BOY-FRIEND, YAMATO-KU... YAMATO AKITSUKI-KUN!!
HE WALKED ME HOME AFTER WE HUNG OUT TODAY!!
カチャ
CLATTER
N...NICE TO MEET YOU!! I'M YAMATO AKI-TSUKI!!
...

I...I'M SORRY WE'RE OUT SO LATE...
I WANTED TO MAKE SURE SHE GOT HOME SAFELY...
HUH ...?
HURRY UP AND GO HOME, SUZUKA.
YOUR MOTHER MUST BE WORRIED.
UHH ...
...
HE...
スーン
GLOOM.
...TOTALLY IGNORED ME...
HUH ...?
...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?

I TOLD YOU. I WAS HANGING OUT WITH YAMATO-KUN!
HE SAID HE LIKES BASEBALL, SO WE WENT TO A NIGHT GAME...
GRAB
HEY...
AND THEN HE WALKED ME ALL THE WAY HOME!!

TURN
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?

JUST HURRY UP AND COME HERE!
ARGH !!
DON'T IGNORE ME!!
I...IT'S FINE, ASAHINA. I'M GONNA HEAD HOME...

SIS!
UH...

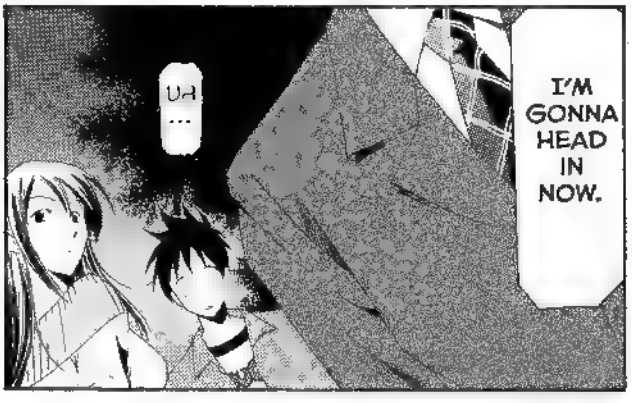
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT AT THIS HOUR ...?
SU-ZUNE ...

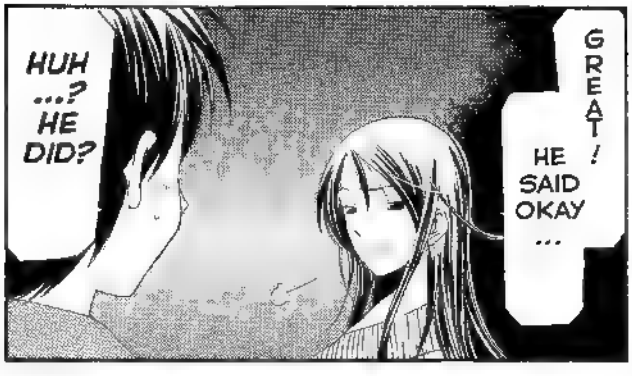
I SAW THE THREE OF YOU TALKING FROM THE 2ND FLOOR, SO I CAME OUT TO GET YOU.
YOU GUYS WEREN'T HOME, SO...
...
STARE
WELL ...

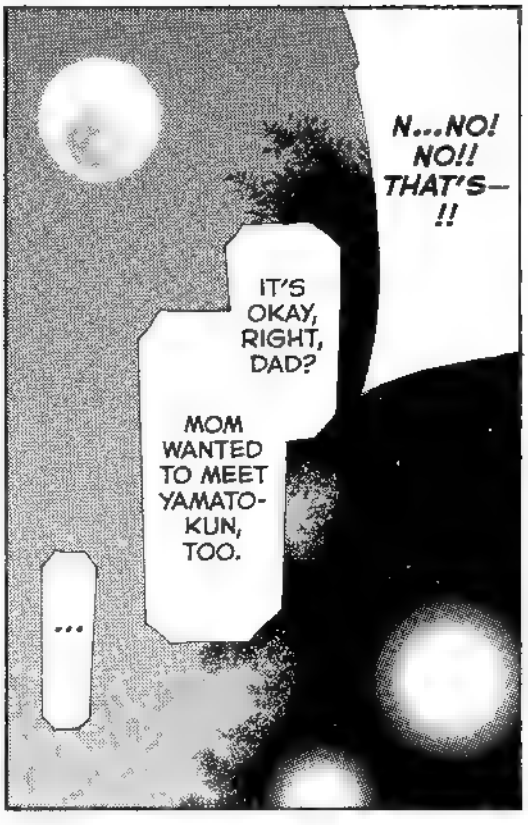
WHAT ARE YOU STANDING AROUND TALKING ABOUT OUT HERE?

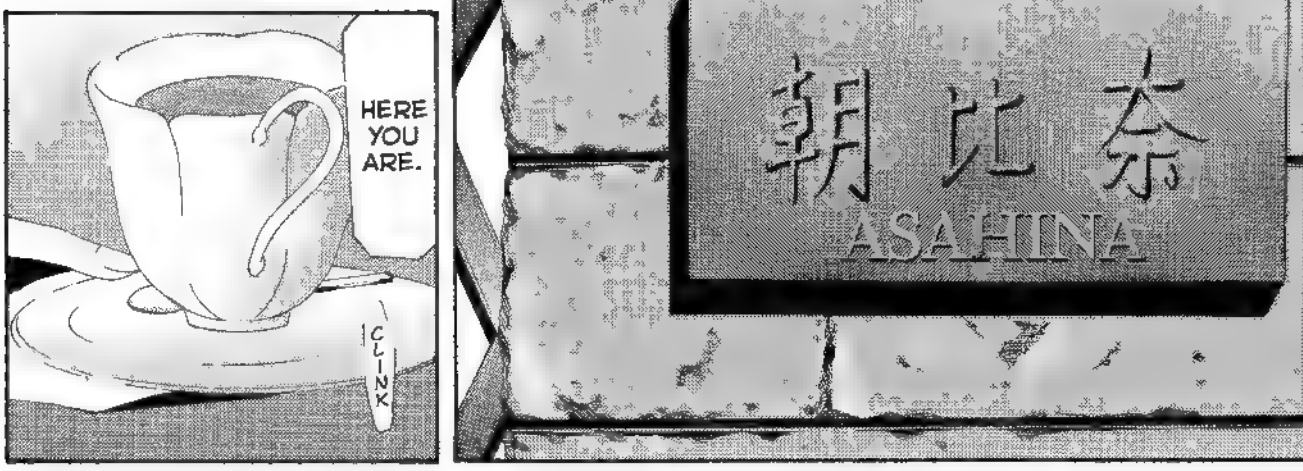
UH, YEAH... HE WALKED ME HOME AFTER...
HUH ...?
SO... DID YOU GUYS HAVE FUN ON YOUR DATE?

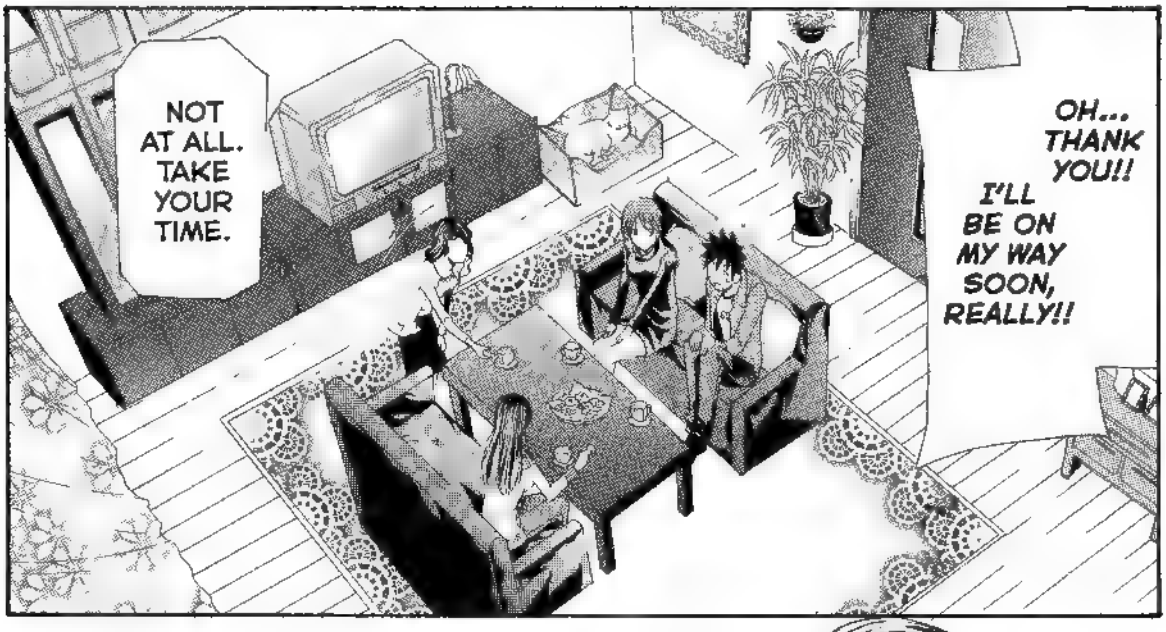
OH... YAMATO-KUN, CARE TO COME IN FOR A BIT, TOO?
THEN DON'T STAY OUT HERE. COME IN.


UH ...
I'M GONNA HEAD IN NOW.

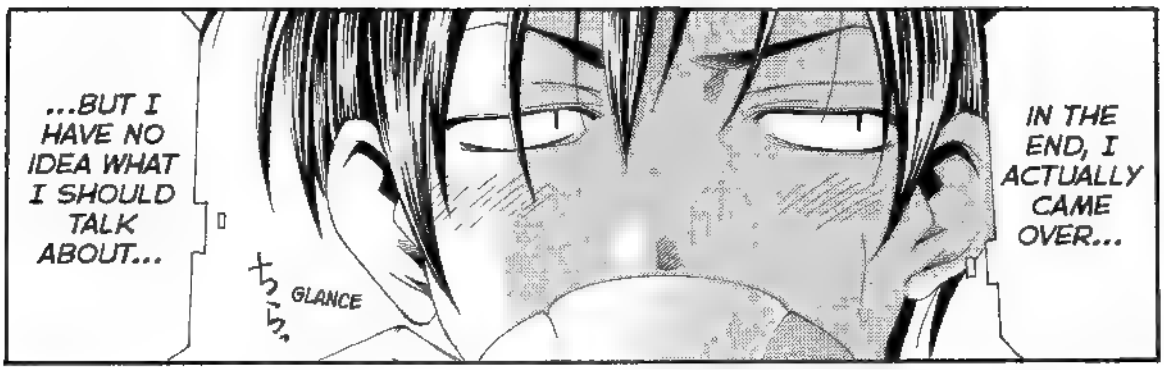

HUH ...? HE DID?
GREAT! HE SAID OKAY ...


N...NO! NO!! THAT'S— !!
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT, DAD?
MOM WANTED TO MEET YAMATO-KUN, TOO.
...

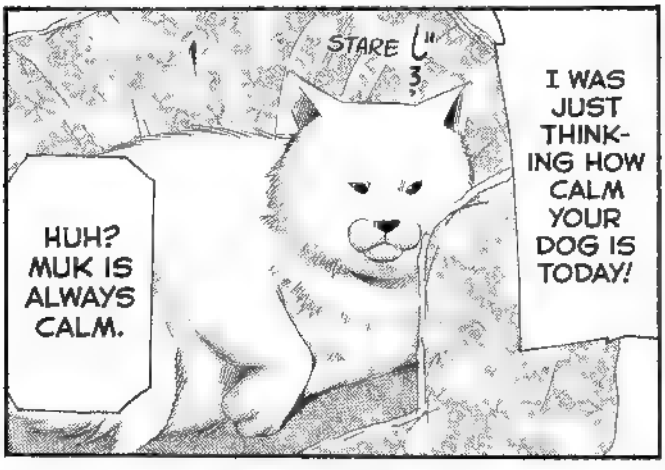

朝比奈
ASAHINA
HERE YOU ARE.
CLINK


NOT AT ALL. TAKE YOUR TIME.
OH... THANK YOU!!
I'LL BE ON MY WAY SOON, REALLY!!

...
RIGHT?! HE'S TOTALLY THE TYPE OF GUY SUZUKA WOULD LIKE!!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU...
YOU'RE JUST AS I IMAGINED, YAMATO-KUN.


...BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SHOULD TALK ABOUT...
ちら。
GLANCE
IN THE END, I ACTUALLY CAME OVER...

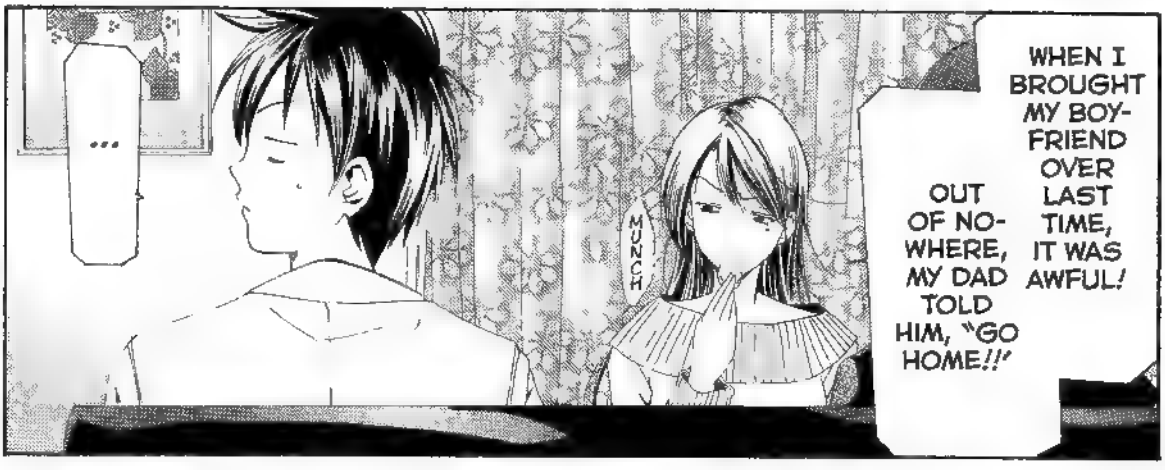
THERE'S NO SIGN THAT HE WANTS TO TALK TO ME...
FLAP / 1"
AND I THINK HER DAD'S PISSED...


STARE
HUH? MUK IS ALWAYS CALM.
I WAS JUST THINK-ING HOW CALM YOUR DOG IS TODAY!

UH... NOTH-ING ...
WHAT IS IT?

UH... THANK YOU ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO NERVOUS, YAMATO-KUN.

DATING SUZUKA MUST BE A HANDFUL, THOUGH.
SHE HAS SUCH A STRONG PERSONALITY, AND SHE CAN BE SELFISH ...
HUH ...?
UGH! SHUT UP, SIS!!
OH, YOUR BOYFRIEND COMPLIMENTED YOU, SUZUKA ...
ISN'T THAT GREAT?
N...NOT AT ALL! RECENTLY, SHE'S BEEN SUPER NICE!!
SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO GET OUR TICKETS TODAY, TOO...
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?
HUH ...?
AND IT LOOKS LIKE DAD DOESN'T MIND YOU, EITHER!


...
MUNCH
WHEN I BROUGHT MY BOY-FRIEND OVER LAST TIME, IT WAS AWFUL!
OUT OF NO-WHERE, MY DAD TOLD HIM, "GO HOME!!"

THANK GOD I GREET-ED HIM...
HE WAS SO NER-VOUS!

IF A GUY CAN'T EVEN GREET HIS GIRL-FRIEND'S PARENTS ...
...THEN HE SHOULDN'T SET FOOT IN THEIR HOUSE ...

HON-ESTLY, DAD, WHY DON'T YOU COME AND TALK?
YOU'RE MAKING YAMATO-KUN UNCOM-FORTABLE BEING ALL QUIET OVER THERE.

C'MON, DAD! WOULD YOU COME OVER HERE?
TH... THAT'S NOT NECESSARY ...
UH, I'M GONNA HEAD ON HOME NOW!!
FLAP
?!
URK... HE'S COMING HERE!!
BADUMP
BADUMP
WHAT'S HE GONNA SAY TO ME...?
HE'S NOT GONNA YELL AT ME, IS HE?!
CLATTER

WHAT ...
...DO YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE?
S... SORRY ?!
"FOR THE FUTURE" ?!
UH ...
BADUMP
BADUMP
HE FINALLY TALKED TO ME...
I BETTER NOT SAY ANYTHING STUPID!!

CLATTER
I... WILL... CHERISH SUZUKA-SAN...
...FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!

HUH ...?
...
DROP
UH ...
CA... REER ?
I...
ADJUST
...WAS ASKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE CAREER ...

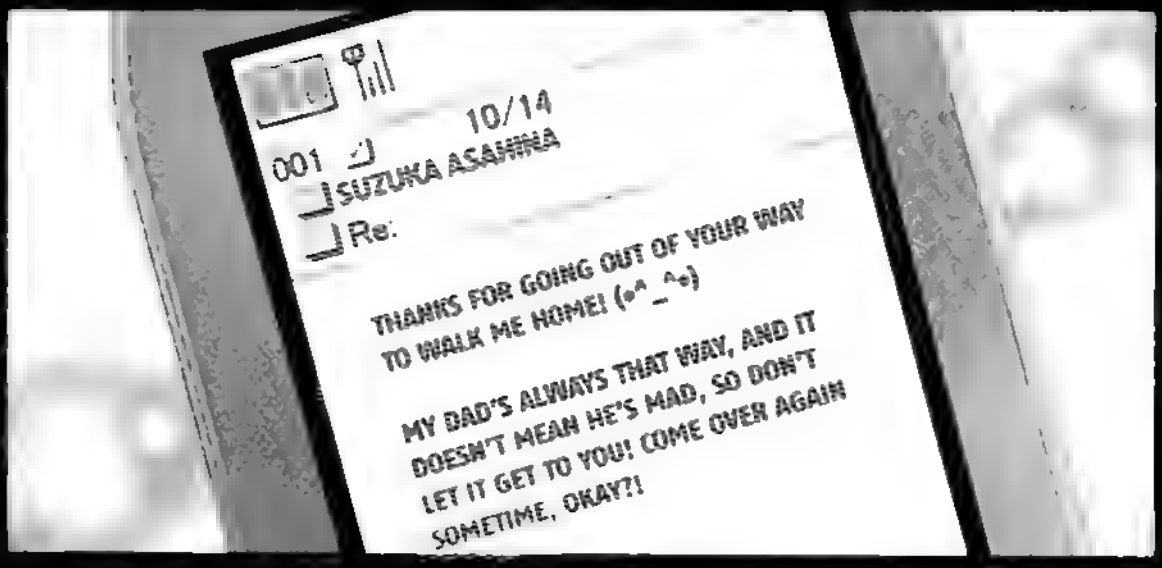
SLAM
UH ...!
THAT WAS TERRIBLE!!
GLOOM
YOU HAVE THE ORDER ALL WRONG!! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!!
WOW... YOU SURE ARE DUMB!!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
OH, MY STOMACH HURTS!!
SNICKER SNICKER
?!
...
IDIOT ...
HUH?! UH... I...
BUT !!

...
C'MON!! THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU!!
HA! HA! HA! HA!! SERI-OUSLY!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR FATHER SO SUR-PRISED!

GACHUNK
GACHUNK
GACHUNK
GACHUNK

...IN FRONT OF HER ENTIRE FAMILY...
OF ALL THE THINGS I COULD DO, I PRO-POSED ...
PLUNK

...
I SCREWED UP.
GLOOM


10/14
001
SUZUKA ASAHINA
Re:
THANKS FOR GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO WALK ME HOME! (^^ _ ^^)
MY DAD'S ALWAYS THAT WAY, AND IT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S MAD, SO DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU! COME OVER AGAIN SOMETIME, OKAY?!

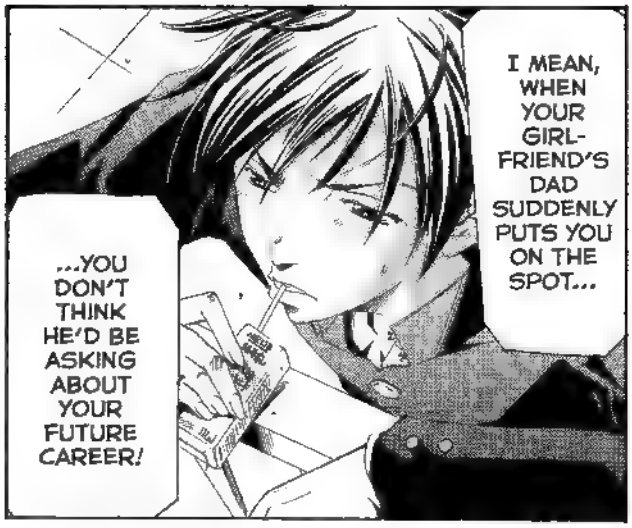
STILL...
...

ANY-WAY ...
NEXT TIME, I SHOULD GO IN A SUIT...

涼風 SUZUKA

#144 THE FIRST MOVE

SHUT UP ...
HA! HA! HA! HA! AS ALWAYS, YOU DO THINGS DIFFER-ENTLY!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


...YOU DON'T THINK HE'D BE ASKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE CAREER!
I MEAN, WHEN YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S DAD SUDDENLY PUTS YOU ON THE SPOT...

AUGH... THIS SUCKS... I WON-DER WHAT ASAHINA'S THINKING AFTER HEARING ME SAY THAT...
RUSTLE
WELL... I WOULDN'T KNOW, SINCE I'D BE TOO SCARED TO GO THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YOU PRO-POSED IN FRONT OF HER FAMILY?

W... WELL... YEAH, I GUESS.
SHE LIKELY DOESN'T THINK MUCH OTHER THAN THAT YOU HAD ONE OF YOUR USUAL BRAINLESS MOMENTS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR ABOUT A YEAR IN TOTAL AT THIS POINT, RIGHT?
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, DESPITE BREAK-ING UP ...

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?! JUST DROP IT!!
AND YOU GUYS HAVE ONLY KISSED THREE TIMES? YOU CAN ONLY TAKE THINGS SO SLOWLY, Y'KNOW.

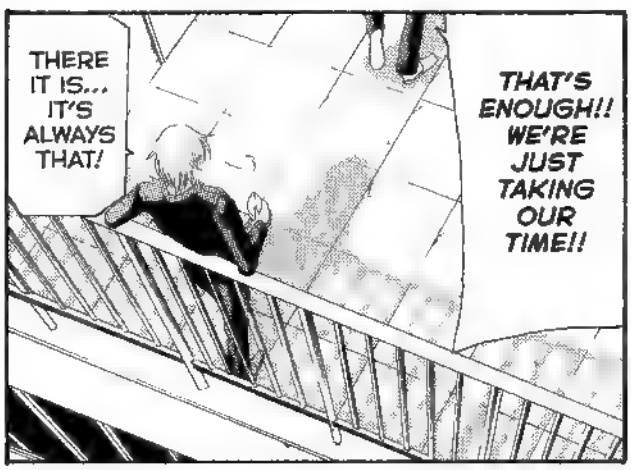
HUH? UH... YEAH, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
A YEAR ...

I'VE BEEN WONDER-ING, MAN...
...

PTOO!
CAN YOU NOT GET IT UP OR SOME-THING?

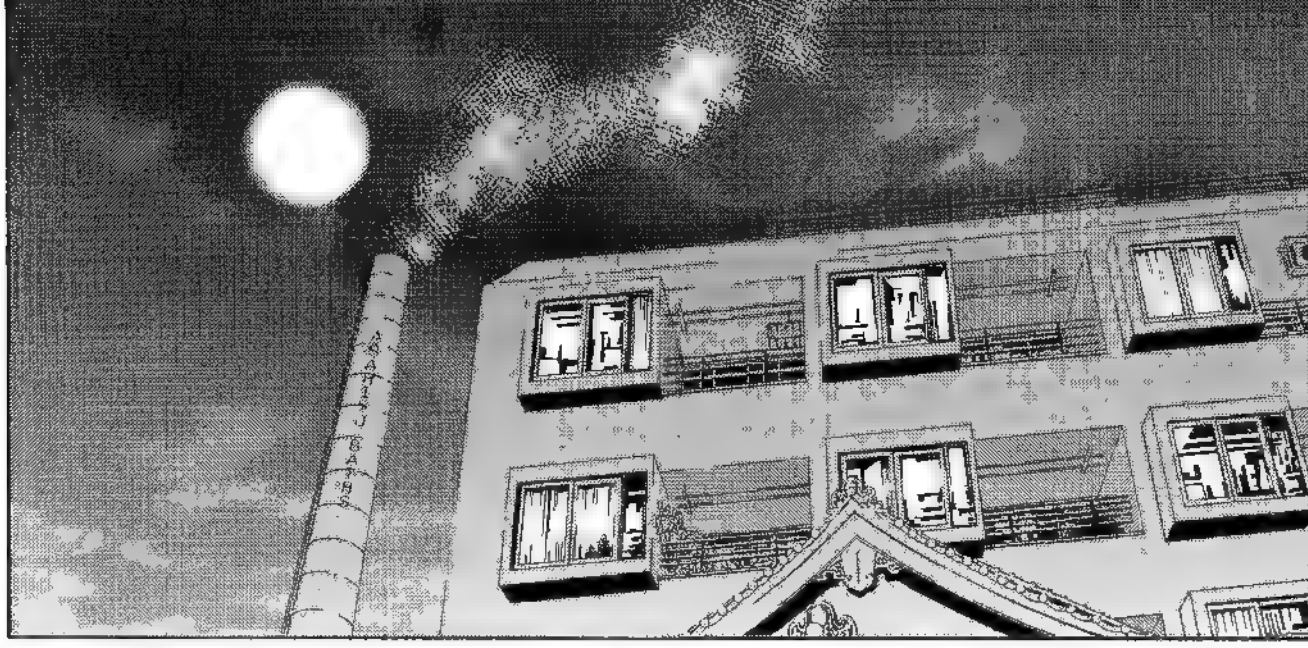
WELL, ISN'T IT WEIRD?
WHAT ...?!
A... ARE YOU STUPID ?!
COUGH!
HACK!

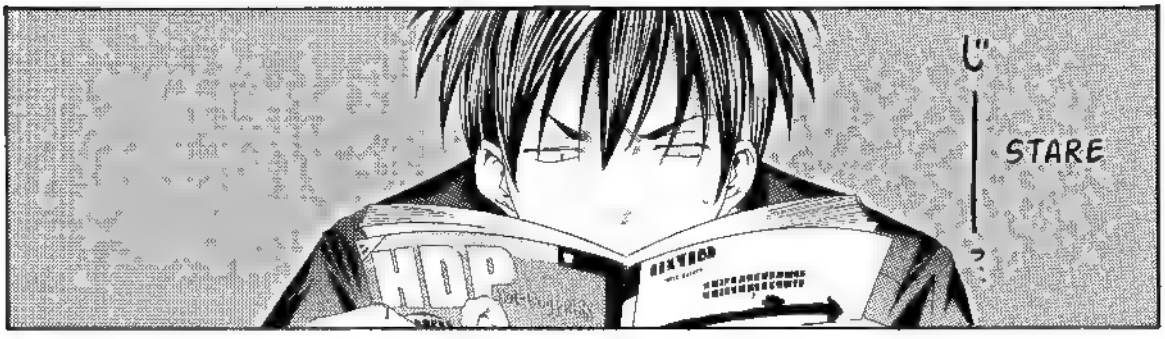
AHHH! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!!
I THINK YOU HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES IF YOU WANTED IT.


THERE IT IS... IT'S ALWAYS THAT!
THAT'S ENOUGH!! WE'RE JUST TAKING OUR TIME!!

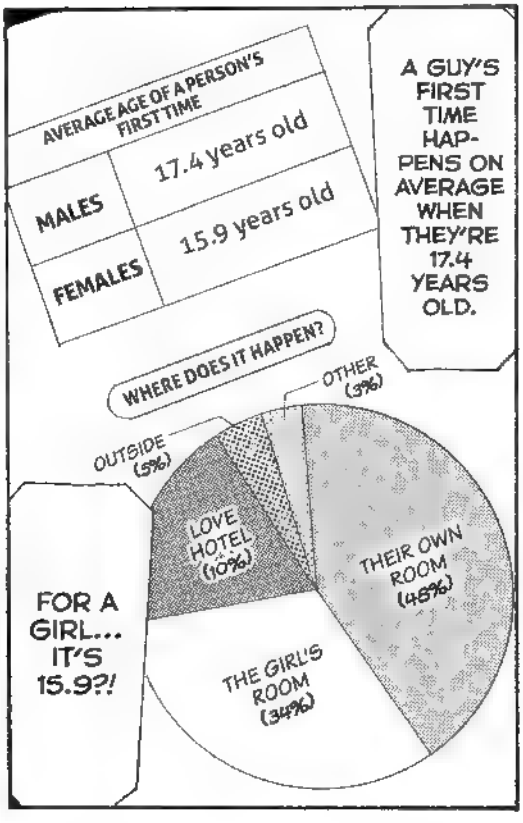
IT WAS LIKE THAT WHEN YOU DATED SAKURAI, TOO...
AND YUI-CHAN CLEARLY HAD A THING FOR YOU.

TH...
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, BUT...
VIRGINITY ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CLING TO!
YOU'RE IN YOUR THIRD YEAR NOW... NO GUY STAYS PLATONIC WITH THE GIRL THEY'RE DATING.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I?
IT'S UP TO THE GUY TO SET THE STAGE FOR THAT STUFF TO HAPPEN!
UH... BUT ASAHINA ISN'T THE TYPE TO THINK ABOUT THAT KINDA STUFF.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WAITING FOR, IT'S NEVER GONNA COME.
THERE'S SUCH A THING AS TIMING, ISN'T THERE ...?
...
I THINK SHE'D BE MORE ANXIOUS IF YOU WERE TO NEVER MAKE A MOVE.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?


BATH HOUSE


STARE

FLIP
FLIP
WHAT IS UP WITH JAPAN'S YOUTH?!
TH... THIS WORLD IS SO WEIRD!!


AVERAGE AGE OF A PERSON'S FIRST TIME
MALES 17.4 years old
FEMALES 15.9 years old
A GUY'S FIRST TIME HAPPENS ON AVERAGE WHEN THEY'RE 17.4 YEARS OLD.
WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?
OTHER (3%)
OUTSIDE (5%)
LOVE HOTEL (10%)
THEIR OWN ROOM (48%)
THE GIRL'S ROOM (34%)
FOR A GIRL... IT'S 15.9?!

YOU'RE IN YOUR THIRD YEAR NOW...
NO GUY STAYS PLATONIC WITH THE GIRL THEY'RE DATING.

HUH?
I'M WAY PAST THE AVERAGE AGE, TOO...
GLOOM
NO... AM I THE WEIRD ONE...?
"SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE!!"
...
"WHEN A GIRL COMES TO YOUR ROOM, IT'S A SIGN THAT SHE'S LIKELY OKAY WITH DOING IT"...?
...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
ASAHINA OFTEN COMES INTO MY ROOM...
NOPE! THAT'S RIDICULOUS!!
OUR SITUATION IS DIFFERENT!!
I MEAN, SHE LIVES RIGHT NEXT DOOR!!

WHOAAA!!
SLAM
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SO WORKED UP ABOUT? KEEP IT DOWN, WILL YOU?
HUH?! UH... NOTHING!!
ANYWAY, WHAT WERE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT ALL BY YOURSELF?
H... HEY ...
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!!
NO WAY I COULD TELL HER ABOUT THAT...
OH... BY THE WAY, YAMATO-KUN, ARE YOU FREE?
UH... YEAH.
WELL, IT'S ANNOYING COMING IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR EACH TIME.

I RENTED A DVD. DID YOU WANT TO WATCH IT TOGETHER?
APPARENTLY PEOPLE ARE SAYING IT'S INTERESTING!
UHH... IS THAT THE ONE THEY'VE BEEN ADVERTISING ON TV?
I SAW THE TRAILER FOR THAT... CAN'T YOU TELL WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN?
...
TITANIC 3
THE LOVE INTEREST SOMEHOW ENDS UP DYING AGAIN, RIGHT? THESE DAYS, THAT'S WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS ...
HEY!
FINE! I'LL WATCH IT ALONE!!
S... SORRY! I'LL WATCH IT, I'LL WATCH IT!!
LET'S WATCH IT TOGETHER!!
OKAY?!
...
0:00:05

...
WHOA...
THIS MOVIE HAS A LOT OF SEX SCENES...
GLANCE
ASAHINA DOESN'T SEEM UNCOM-FORTABLE WATCH-ING IT, THOUGH ...

...
HUH...? SO SHE WAS A LITTLE EMBAR-RASSED ...
"WHEN A GIRL COMES TO YOUR ROOM, IT'S A SIGN THAT SHE'S LIKELY OKAY WITH DOING IT."
UH...
COULD THAT BE WHY SHE RENTED THIS KIND OF MOVIE...?

"I THINK SHE'D BE MORE ANXIOUS ...
...IF YOU WERE TO NEVER MAKE A MOVE."
CREAK
I SEE ...!
COULD IT BE BECAUSE I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING ...?
TH...
THEN ...
WHAT A FREAKING LIAR!!
THAT JERK WAS WRONG !!
BLUSH
I'M JUST GONNA WATCH THE FILM...
I SHOULDN'T GET ANY WEIRD IDEAS...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WATCH THE MOVIE!
UH... S... SORRY ...

MAN, IT'S LONG...
THE MOVIE IS INTERESTING, BUT...
...
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY ENDING ...
ASA-HINA ...?
HUH ...?
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE BECAME LIKE THE COUPLE IN THIS MOVIE ...?
FWIP

HUH ...?
"LIKE THIS MOVIE"...? SO, IN OTHER WORDS ...
SHE WANTS TO HAVE THE KIND OF LOVE THAT COUPLE HAD, RIGHT...?
...THAT COUPLE HAD...
THE LOVE ...
BADUMP
SO IT IS TRUE ...
...
BADUMP
GRIP...
WE HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS SINCE DATING...
SO ASAHINA IS ANXIOUS...

I'M SO PATHETIC ...
HUH ...?
TO THINK IT TOOK ALL THIS FOR ME TO GET THE MESSAGE...
CLINK

...WANNA LOSE MY VIRGINITY DURING HIGH SCHOOL...
IT'S NOT THAT I REALLY ...

BUT...

TOUCH...
...EVEN A LITTLE...
IF THIS WILL REASSURE ASAHINA...
ORDINARYE
07

ASAHINA ...
WHAT ...
...DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ...?
SMOOSH
HUH ...?

?!
POW
SLAM
...
UH...
WHAAAAT?!
SO, I WAS WRONG?!

POW
...
GROAN
...
STILL HURTS
...
I KNOW I TOUCHED HER BOOBS, BUT...
...SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GET *THAT* UPSET...

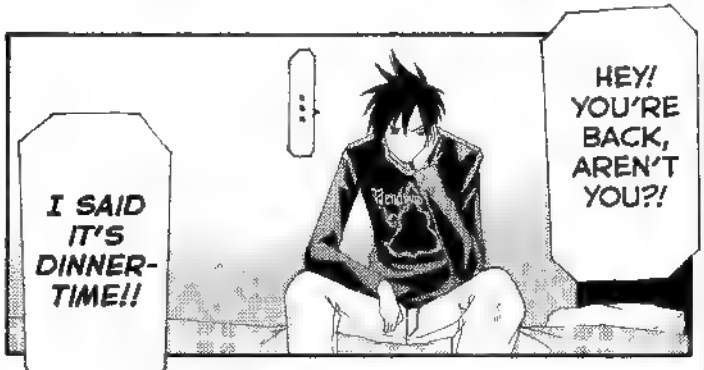
#145 THE RIFT

I SHOULD APOL-OGIZE TO HER WHEN I SEE HER...
I HATE LEAVING THINGS ON A BAD NOTE...
KA-CHAK
KA-CHAK
SLAM
SIGH ...
CREAK
...
A... ASA-HINA!
OH ...
UH ...
ABOUT YES-TER-DAY, I...

...!!
STAY AWAY FROM ME ...!!
TMP..!!
UH ...!
TMP..!!
HOLD ON, ASA-HINA!!
CLOP
...
CLOP

UH ...
HEY... JUST HEAR ME OUT!
PLEASE!
...
CLOP
CLOP
I DON'T WANNA HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY...
IF YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT YESTER-DAY, I'M SORRY!
C'MON ...
DON'T TALK TO ME!!

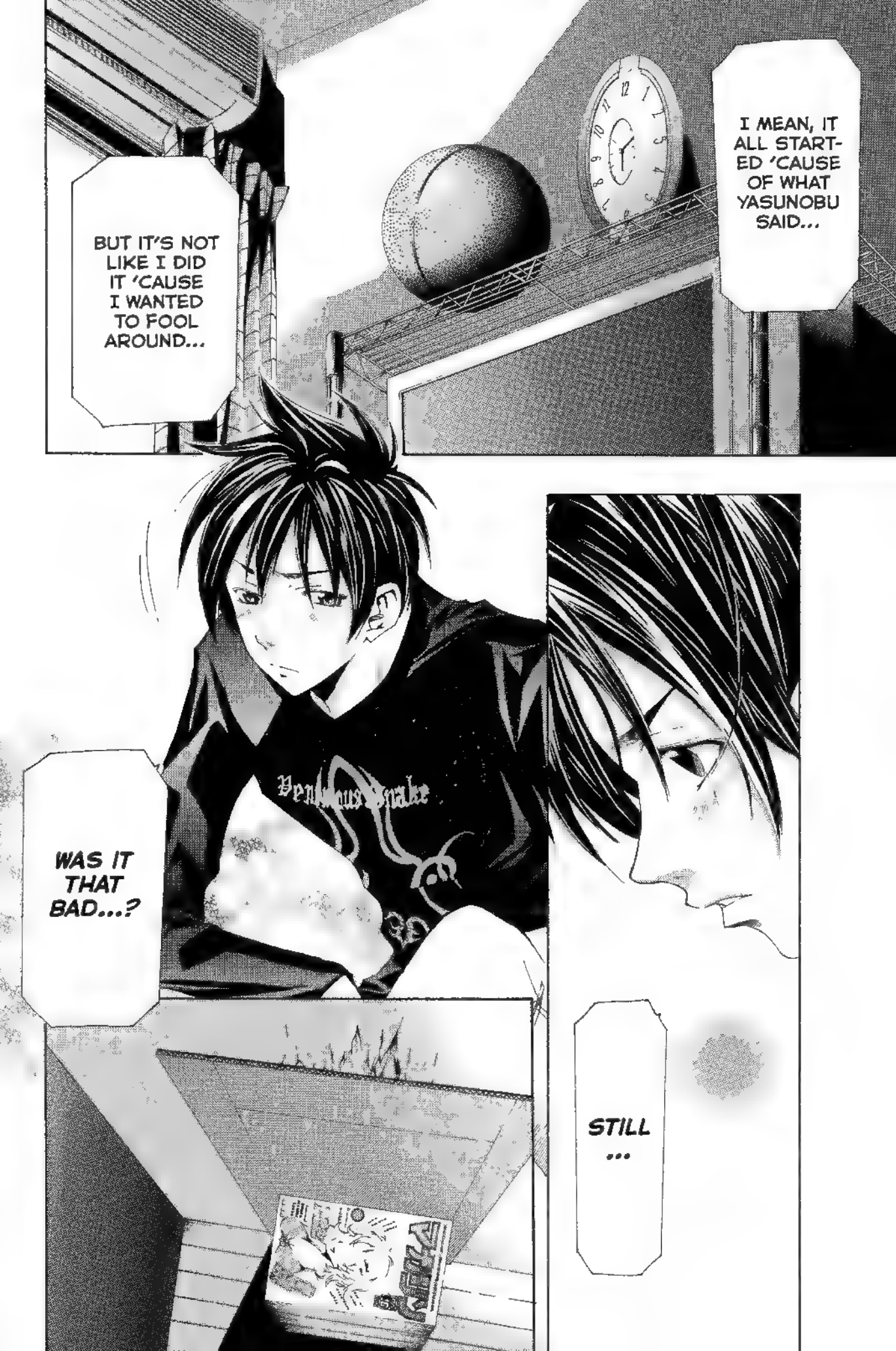
...
ASA-
HINA
...
CLOP
CLOP


...
HEY! YOU'RE BACK, AREN'T YOU?!
I SAID IT'S DINNER-TIME!!

ONI-CHAN, IT'S DINNER-TIME!!
ASAHIYU BATHS

?!
JOLT
I'M NOT HUNGRY !!

I JUST DON'T GET IT!!
WHA ...
WHAT THE HECK?! FINE! DON'T COME OUT!!
STAY AWAY FROM ME!!
I'M THE ONE WHO DOESN'T GET IT...
I APOL-OGIZED, TOO...
...
WHY DID ASAHINA GET SO PISSED?!


I MEAN, IT ALL START-ED 'CAUSE OF WHAT YASUNOBU SAID...
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I DID IT 'CAUSE I WANTED TO FOOL AROUND...
Venomous Snake
WAS IT THAT BAD...?
STILL ...

NHK
SUZUKA ASAHINA
SCRB
SCRB
SCRB
COM-
ING.
TMP
DING
DONG

UH...
KER-CHAK

YAMATO-KUN ...

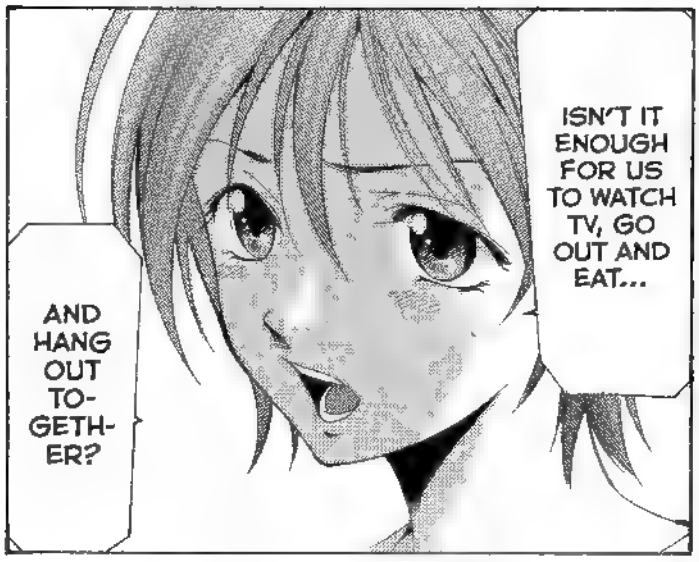
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.
CREAK

I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
CAN YOU SPARE A MINUTE?

NOT SO LOUD!!
C'MON, I'M BEGGING YOU, ASAHINA!!
JUST HEAR ME OUT!!
GRAB
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!!
F...FINE! I WILL, JUST COME IN!!
THEN HEAR ME OUT!!
SORRY...
SLAM

SO? WHAT IS IT...?
A... ABOUT YESTER-DAY...
I JUST DON'T GET IT...
HUH...?
LIKE, I AM SORRY THAT I ...
DID SOME-THING LIKE THAT SO SUD-DENLY...
BUT!!
WE'RE GOING OUT, AREN'T WE?!

WAS WHAT I DID
REALLY THAT BAD?!
...
W...WELL, IT'S NOT THAT I CARE SO MUCH...
BUT I MEAN, THAT KINDA STUFF IS NORMAL FOR A COUPLE!
WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THAT ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NORMAL"?


ISN'T IT ENOUGH FOR US TO WATCH TV, GO OUT AND EAT...
AND HANG OUT TO-GETH-ER?

WELL... YEAH...!

THEN WHY?
I DON'T GET WHY YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT *THAT!*
WELL... I MEAN ...

STUFF LIKE THAT IS DIF-FERENT FOR EACH PERSON ...
DEPENDING ON THE RE-LATIONSHIP THEY HAVE, ISN'T IT?

WELL, I DON'T!!
AS YOU GO OUT, YOU START THINKING IT'S TIME!!
I LIKE THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW!!
I CAN BE HAPPY WITH THAT!!
WELL...

I CAN'T!!
I CAN'T BE HAPPY WITH JUST THIS!!
I...

I DON'T WANNA TALK TO YOU.
GO HOME ...
H... HEY, I...
TURN
STOP ...
HUH ...?
I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT THIS!!
I SAID, GO HOME !!
...!!

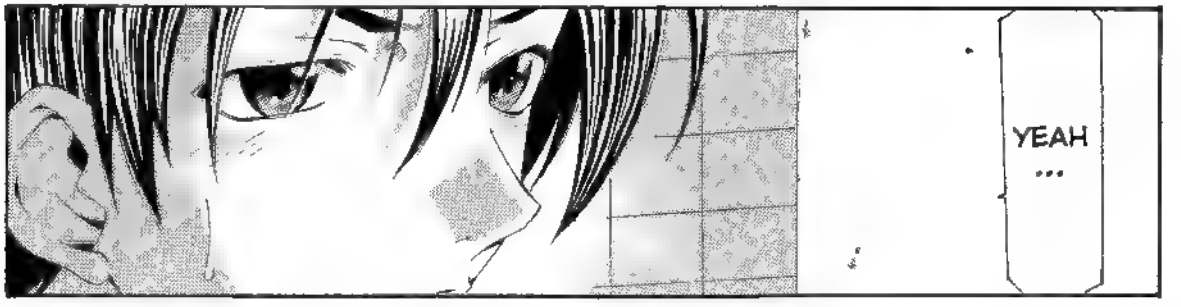
SLAM

DAMN
WHAT THE HE...

WHY DO I HAVE TO FIGHT WITH SAHINA
EVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

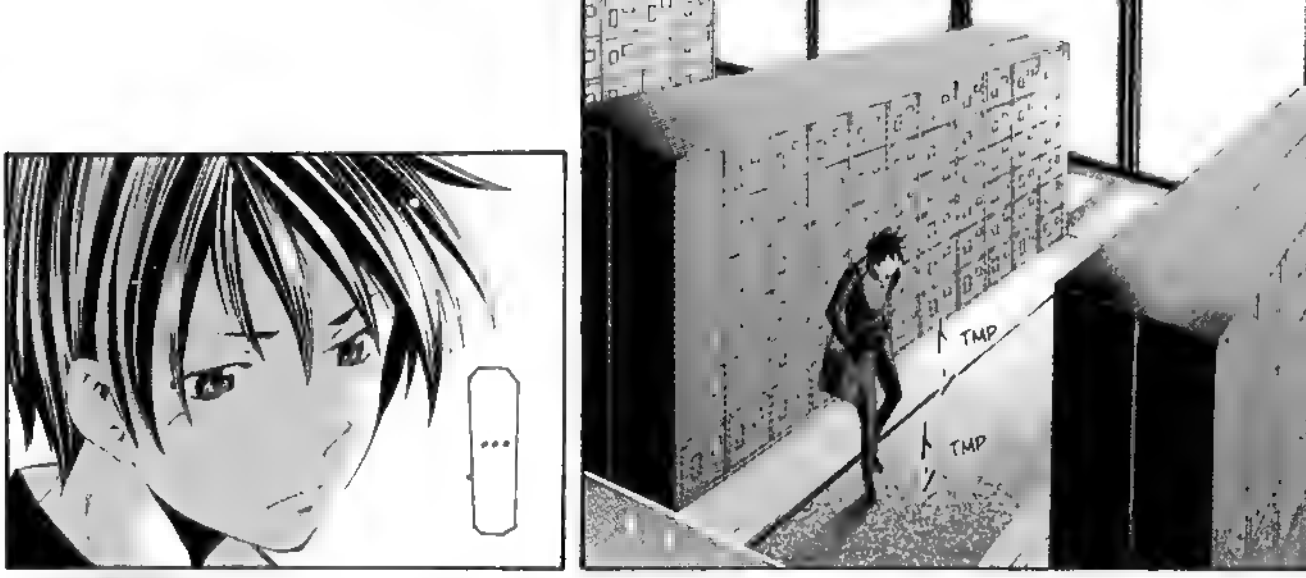
#146 **PREFACE**

HUH ...?
MUNCH MUNCH
SHE REJECTED YOU?!


YEAH ...

WE WERE JUST WATCHING A MOVIE TOGETHER ... AND THE MOOD DEFINITELY FELT RIGHT... SO...
THEN WHY DID THINGS FALL APART?
MAN, YOU ARE LAME... YOU DIDN'T BLURT OUT "I WANNA DO THE DIRTY" OR SOMETHING AS ALWAYS, RIGHT?
I—I WOULDN'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!!
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALWAYS"?!
WELL ...

SO YOU JUST GAVE UP LIKE THAT...?!
W... WELL, YEAH!!
HUHHH?
SLURP
SHE SAID SHE'S HAPPY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW...
SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T GET WHY THAT'S SO IMPORTANT ...
...
WHY IS IT THAT YOU ALWAYS GET SOFT WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE?
FLIP
MAN, YOU ARE PATHETIC! YOU CALL YOURSELF A GUY?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF PLAYING HARD TO GET?!
HEY ...!
CLATTER
I'M DONE!
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO TAKE YOUR ADVICE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
DING
DONG
DANG
SHUT UP!!
WAIT, YAMATO!! JUST LISTEN!!
I'M GIVING YOU GOOD ADVICE HERE!!


...
TMP
TMP

WHY YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THAT!
I DON'T GET...

...WANTED TO GET CLOSER TO YOU...
I JUST ...

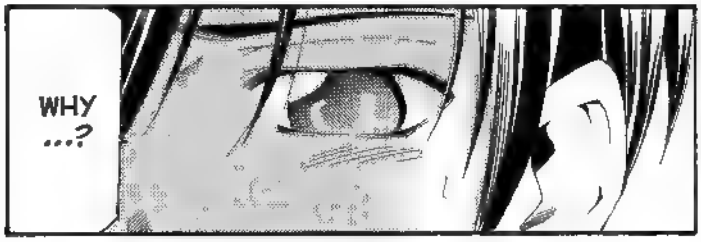
WHY I CARE SO MUCH ...?

SEE YA!
LATER, SUZU-KA!

UH...
ASA-
HINA
...
...
UH...
I...

UH ...!
TURN
HEY, WAIT UP!!

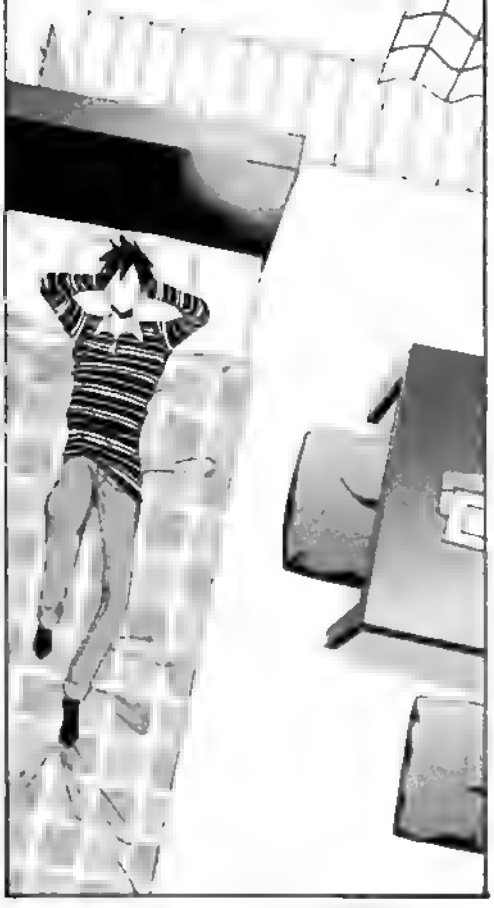
...

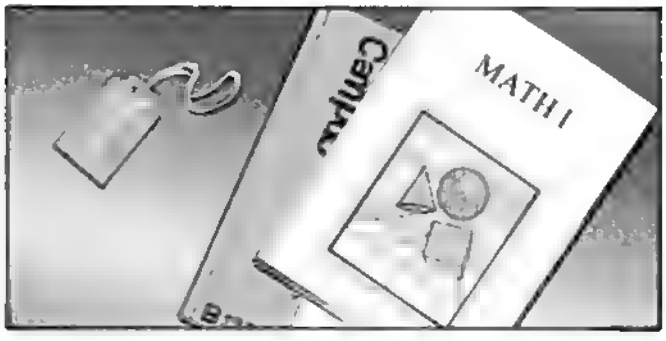

WHY ...?

WHY HAVE THINGS GOTTEN THIS WAY...?
ASAHI BATHS

ASA-HINA!!
...
...!
WAIT!!

TURN




MATH I

WHY DON'T I TEACH YOU...?
IF YOU'RE COOL WITH IT ...

HERE! IT WORKED FOR ME BEFORE, SO...

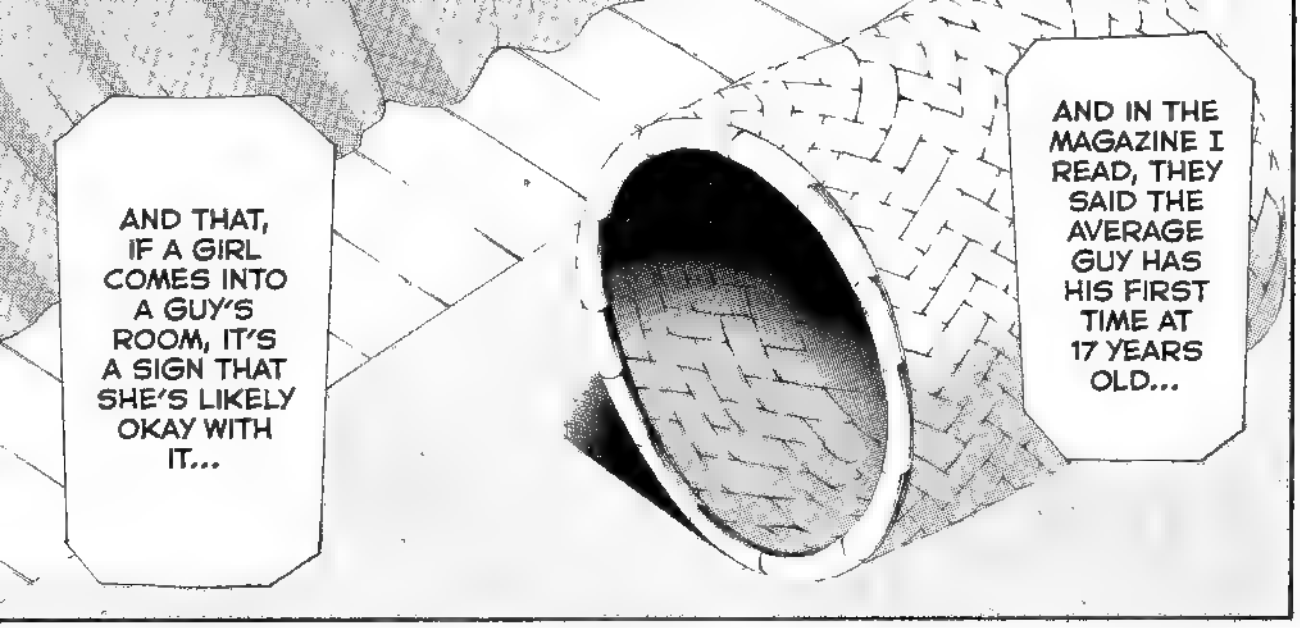
I WANNA KEEP BE-ING WITH YOU...
'CAUSE I LIKE YOU, ASAHINA ...
BUT ...
I THINK SHE'D BE MORE ANXIOUS IF YOU WERE TO NEVER MAKE A MOVE.
UH... YOU THINK SO...?
"WHEN A GIRL COMES TO YOUR ROOM, IT'S A SIGN THAT SHE'S LIKELY OKAY WITH DOING IT"...?
I'M REALLY GLAD!
WE GET TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL!

I CAN'T!!
I CAN'T BE HAPPY WITH JUST THIS!!
THAT KINDA STUFF IS NORMAL FOR A COUPLE!
AS YOU GO OUT, YOU START THINKING IT'S TIME!!
...
HA! HA! HA! HA!!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S TRUE!!
IT IS, REALLY!! TRUST ME!!
AND YET, WHAT I DID...
302
NHK
SUZUKA ASAHI
...
...?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

WHA ...?
HUH ...?
?!
BANG!!
ASA-HINA !!
THUD ゴッ
THUD ゴッ
H...HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

UH...
UH... I...
BAM!!!
I'M SORRY!!
HUH ...?
...

WH-WHOA, STOP IT! WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?!
NO!! PLEASE LET ME APOLO-GIZE!!
I MEAN, I GET IT NOW!
HUH ...?
FWIP
I JUST ...
WANTED TO DO IT!!
...
HUH ...?
YASUNOBU TOLD ME THAT IT'S NORMAL TO DO IT AFTER GOING OUT FOR A YEAR...
SO I FELT RUSHED.


AND IN THE MAGAZINE I READ, THEY SAID THE AVERAGE GUY HAS HIS FIRST TIME AT 17 YEARS OLD...
AND THAT, IF A GIRL COMES INTO A GUY'S ROOM, IT'S A SIGN THAT SHE'S LIKELY OKAY WITH IT...

SO I ENDED UP THINK-ING ONLY ABOUT MYSELF...
...WITH-OUT EVEN CONSID-ERING YOUR FEEL-INGS...

YAMA-TO-KUN ...
...

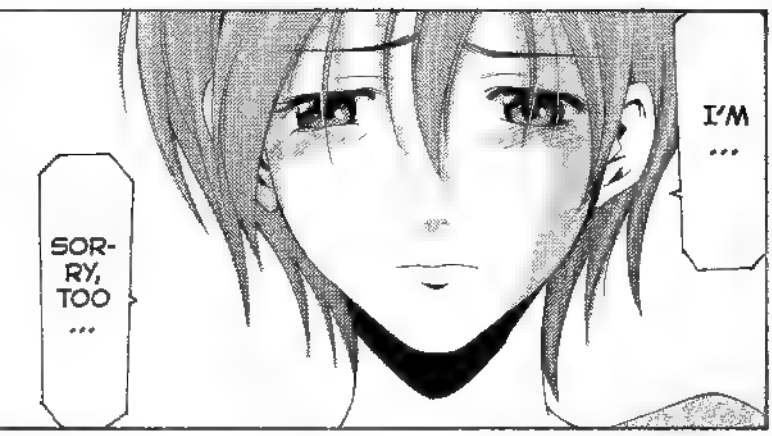
BANG
I'M SO SORRY!! I'M THE WORST!!
I SAID STOP IT!!
BANG

YOU KNOW ...
...

I'M NOT ANGRY ...
HUH ...?
IN MY HEAD, I KNEW ...
...THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO THAT AT SOME POINT...
BUT ...
I REALLY AM HAPPY WITHOUT THAT STUFF...
...AND IT'S BEEN SO FUN HANG-ING OUT WITH YOU EVERY DAY...
AND ...
...
UM ...
THAT STUFF... WELL...

IT SCARED ME...

ASAHINA ...
...


I'M ...
SOR-RY, TOO ...

WHICH IS WHY ...
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY WHEN I SAW YOU...

...
BOY, I'M AN IDIOT...

WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT FOR THIS LONG, AND I HAD NO IDEA.
I DIDN'T KNOW ...
...WHAT MATTERED MOST TO ME.
I'M OKAY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW, TOO.
HUH ...?!
I DON'T WANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT SO CASUALLY ...
I REALLY AM OKAY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW...
BUT... YOU WON'T BE SATISFIED THEN, RIGHT, YAMATO-KUN?
N-NO, IT'S OKAY! REALLY!! IT IS!!
I MEAN ...
YOU... UH...

YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME ...
ASAHINA ...
HUH ...?
SO...
I WANT TO CHERISH YOU ...
...EVEN MORE NOW...
...
YAMATO-KUN ...
THANK YOU ...
N... NAW ...
NOTHING TO THANK ME FOR...

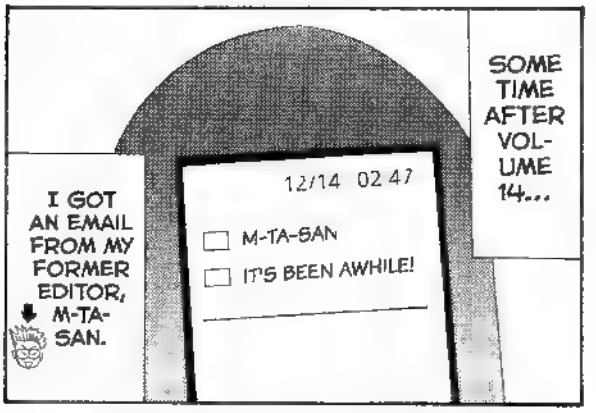
I'M OKAY WITH IT, YAMATO-KUN ...
CLATTER
SO... THAT'S WHY...

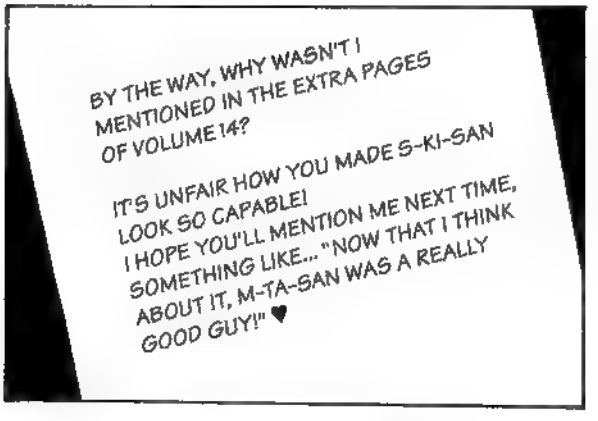
WITH WHAT ...?
HUH ...?

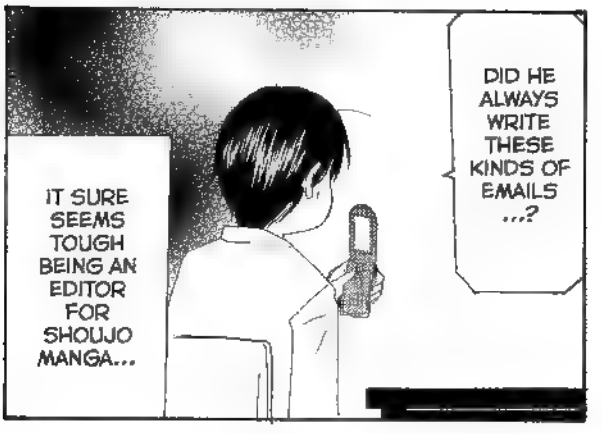
...AGAINST DOING IT NOW...
I WOULDN'T BE...
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 17...

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NO.35:
M-TA-SAN IS OF COURSE A GOOD PERSON.



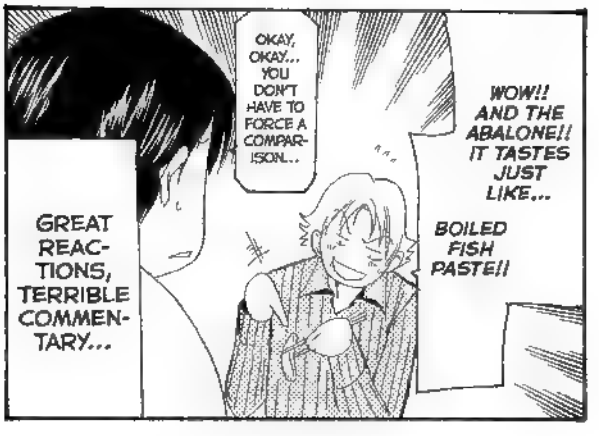

BY THE WAY, WHY WASN'T I MENTIONED IN THE EXTRA PAGES OF VOLUME 14?
IT'S UNFAIR HOW YOU MADE S-KI-SAN LOOK SO CAPABLE!
I HOPE YOU'LL MENTION ME NEXT TIME, SOMETHING LIKE... "NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, M-TA-SAN WAS A REALLY GOOD GUY!" ♥



SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

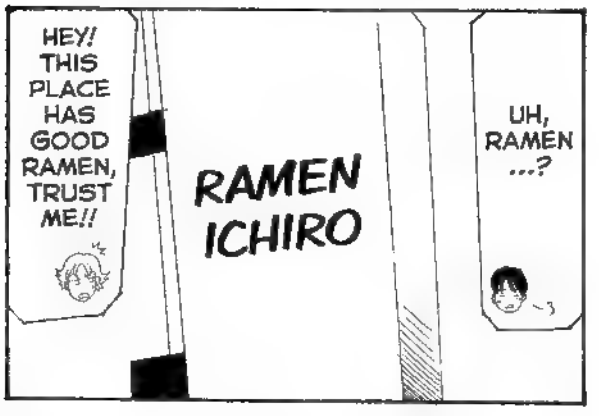
NO.36: BUT THEY'RE HIGH-QUALITY INGREDIENTS...

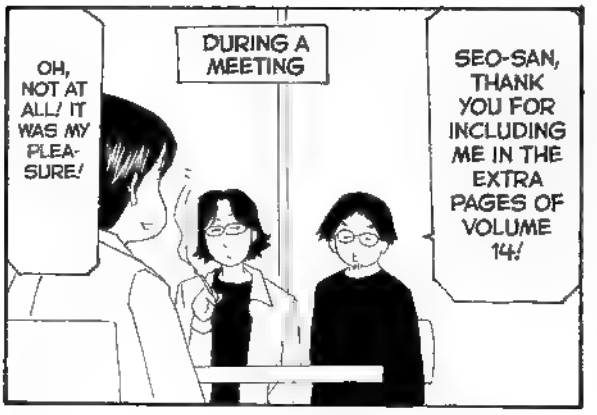
SERI-OUSLY?! OKAY, I WANNA EAT CHINESE FOOD!!
ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE SLOTS
WHAT DO YOU WANNA EAT? IT'LL BE MY TREAT!
IT WAS YASUNOBU-KUN'S BIRTHDAY, SO...


GREAT REAC-TIONS, TERRIBLE COMMEN-TARY...
OKAY, OKAY... YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE A COMPAR-ISON...
WOW!! AND THE ABALONE!! IT TASTES JUST LIKE...
BOILED FISH PASTE!!

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NO.37: B-CLASS GOURMET





SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NO.38: A BEAUTY FROM ALL ANGLES

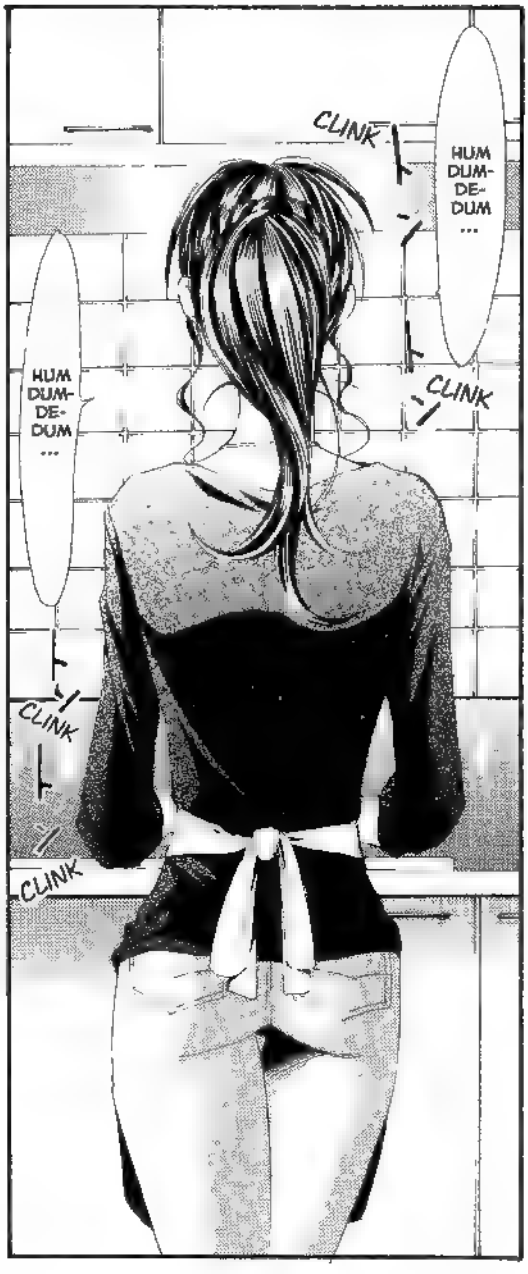
MIHO'S ESP

CHAPTER 3: IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY...

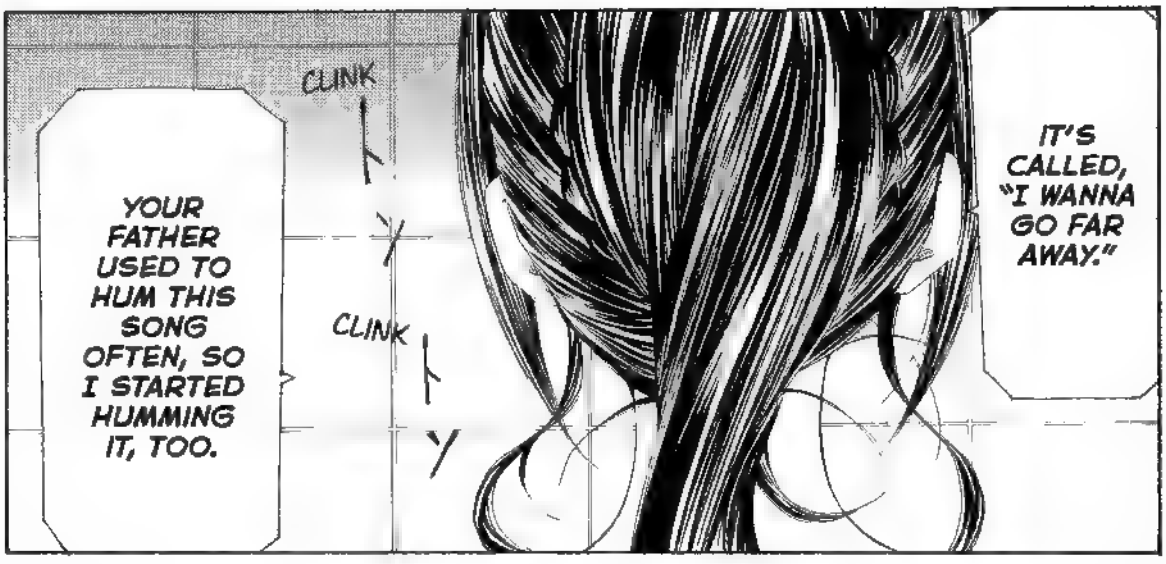
KOJI♡SEO

SANITY BATHS

...


CLINK
HUM DUM-DE-DUM ...
CLINK
HUM DUM-DE-DUM ...
CLINK
CLINK

HEY, MOM, WHAT SONG IS THAT?
HUH...? OH, THE ONE I'M SING-ING?


CLINK
CLINK
YOUR FATHER USED TO HUM THIS SONG OFTEN, SO I STARTED HUMMING IT, TOO.
IT'S CALLED, "I WANNA GO FAR AWAY."

I SEE ...
HMM...

CLINK
CLINK
MOM ...?
...

MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE WENT FAR AWAY...
HE WAS A GOOD-FOR-NOTH-ING.

TODAY'S GREEN ONIONS SURE ARE FRESH...
SNIFF...
OH DEAR ...
UH...
OH... MY... THANK YOU...
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET, SO I'M ONLY LETTING YOU KNOW, MOM!
OH...! I HAVE ESP, SO I CAN HEAR DAD'S VOICE!!
PRETTY AWESOME, HUH!!
WHAT ...?
SO ... WHAT DOES YOUR FATHER SAY?
LET'S SEE...

HE SAID HE LOVES YOU, ME, AND GORO-CHAN...
SO HE'LL ALWAYS BE NEARBY, WATCHING US!!
...
MIHO ...
YEAH... THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME THAT.
ISN'T THAT GREAT, MOM?!
I HEARD HIM, TOO ...
I FEEL LIKE ...
OH... I THINK HE ALSO SAID THAT YOU SHOULD RAISE MY ALLOW-ANCE!
THAT, I DIDN'T HEAR!
WHAAAT?!
ANYWAY, CALL YAMATO-KUN AND THE OTHERS TO DINNER, WILL YOU?
☆ THE END ☆

Suzuka 16

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